

THE
Cheating Gallant:

Or, The False

Count Brion.

A

Pleasant NOVEL:

Translated from the French.

L O N D O N,

Printed for James Magnes, and
Richard Bentley, in Russel-street in
Covent-garden, near the Piazza's.

M. DC. LXX VII.



Licensed,

Novemb. 17th. 1676.

Roger L' Estrange.





-TO THE
Right Honourable
JOHN,

EARL of *Mulgrave,*

Gentleman of his Majesties Bed-
Chamber, Knight of the Noble Or-
der of the GARTER, &c.

My Lord,



Ere an Author,
who *Dedi-*
cates a Book,
obliged to Choose a
Subject equal to the
A 2 Me-

The Epistle

Merit of the Person to
whom he Addresses *It*;
I should appear Guilty
of an inexcusable Fault,
in presenting You This,
which contains Nothing
worthy the Perusal of a
Wit so Delicate, and
so Clear, as Your Lord-
ship's. And the Impa-
tience I was under, to
make You an Offering
out of my poor Stock,
must have submitted to
the Censure and Con-
demna-

Dedictory.

demnation of a Crime.
But, my Lord, the Merit of Persons of Your Rank is not measured by Books: Those who are Born under the Influence of Stars so happy as Yours, Read not to Learn; and seldome find Books Capable to Instruct Them. I, who am only an Author of Trifles, can pretend to no more than the Honour of giving You a

A 3 little

The Epistle

little Divertisement. My Book may pass for another *Scaramouche*; The *Hero* of my Play having Acted (especially when *London* was his Scene) a very pleasant Part, which many have thought worthy the Publishing in Print: I might have, perhaps, succeeded better in my Description, had I been allow'd the Liberty to Represent it fully as it was: But there

Dedictory.

there were too many concerned; who, though they bore part in the Adventures of my *Hero*, would doubtless have been loath to appear in his *Memoires*. There was a necessity to suppress many Particulars; and what is suppressed, is often the best part of the Story: I have said this rather to excuse my self to Your Lordship, than to Justifie my self to the

The Epistle

Publick. I could have wish'd, that though the Present I offer be really a Trifle, yet that my Trifle should not have been Imperfect; but it was not in my Power; and an Historian must not alwayes Write the whole Truth of his Story.

Thus far, my Lord, this Epistle hath nothing common with ordinary

De-

Dedicatory.

Dedications; which are usually made up of Elo- ges, as well true as false: Yet, I confess, that an Author as I am, who pretend much to Sincerity, ought not to have let slip so fair an Occasion (without the help of Art or Eloquence) to Represent in Your *Lordship's* Person, the Wit, the Courage, and all other Qualities of a

A 5 *Hero*

The Epistle

Hero High-born, and
every way Compleat :
But this is a Subject too
Excellent, to appear in
the Front of a Book of
this Nature. I will re-
serve my self that Ho-
nour for a better Occa-
sion, in some serious
Peice ; and rest satisfyed
at present, to have Writ-
ten an Epistle for no o-
ther end, than to make
it appear, With how
much

Dedicatory.

much Respect, and how
deep a Passion, I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordships most humble,

and obedient Servant,

S. Bremond.

Some

Some Books Printed this Term
for *J. Magnes*, and *R. Bentley*.

The Happy Slave, a Novel.
The false Count *Brien*, a Novel.
French Novels.

L' Gallant Esrock.

L' Horux Eslave.

L' Horux Eslave, Second Part.

Plays.

Abdellatzar.

Sir Timothy Paudery: Or, The
Town-Fop.

Madam Fickle: Or, The Witty
False One.

The Plain-Dealer.

The Fool Turned Critick: In the
Press.

Essayes Moral,
Translated from
the *French*:

} In the Press.

THE

T H E

Cheating Gallant:

• O R,

COUNT *BRION*.

Ever did Men more
 affect an appearance
 of Honesty than in
 our days, yet never
 was Age more fruit-
 ful in Cheats ; they
 grow in all Countreys, each Sex
 and Condition produces new in-
 stances ; and those who Converse
 in the World, quick'y find, there
 are not subtler Knaves, or greater
 Masters of Craft than some who
 are taken for the Simplest of
 Men.

B

The

2 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,

The Gallant I write of, was a *Hero* of this Make : The best account of his Pedegree, (being somewhat obscure) is, That he was of the Race of *Melchisedec*, and knew no Father, but a Country Curat, whose Nephew he past for, though strongly suspected to be his Son; being so very like him, it gave cause to believe, that when he was Begot, the Curat had more than a finger in the Pye.

The Curat in his younger days, had been taken for a Gamester; having a Complexion and Mein, that discovered an inclination in him to labour no less for the Increase, than the Salvation of his Flock: However, the great care he took of his Nephew, and the kindness he had for him, made Men (who judge according to Appearances) easily believe, The Curat had no small interest in him.
And

And the rather, for that a considerable part of the Revenue of the fat Benefice he had, was bestow'd yearly on the Education of his Nephew *John Le Brun*, for so was his Name: And, as to his Qualities, he was handsom and witty; but from a Child, a little given to Cousening and Cheating.

The good Inclinations of Youth must be Cultivated with continual Care to bring them to perfection; the ill, grow up of themselves. Thus the hopeful Nephew did constantly exercise the patience of his good Uncle, by doing every day one shrewd turn or other, and playing a thousand wild pranks, attended with as many Complaints from the Neighbourhood; so that the Curat despaired at last of ever bringing him to Good. But *John* (at length) be-

4 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
ing about three and twenty years
old, and moved by the Remon-
strances of his good Uncle, or
growing more sober with Age,
was so far Reformed, as to give
some hopes of Amendment. There
was no more talk of his Foole-
ries, no Complaints for his Fro-
liques; not but that he continued
as very a Rogue as before, but
that he was grown up to the Wit
of covering his Knavery, and
concealing his Extravagances.

The good Curat thought it the
work of Heaven, and gave God
thanks for the blessed Reforma-
tion. *John*, who knew himself a
handsome Lad, was willing to
try his Fortune in Gallantry: The
Village he was born in, could not
furnish him with a Beauty suitable
to his own; which, he thought,
might expect a civil Respect from
a Lady of greater Merit, than a
Country

Countrey Girl could pretend to: And to compass his Design, he resolved the Scene of his first Adventure, should be a Castle belonging to the Lord of the Manor: There he soon met with a Chamber-maid, who might serve very well for his first Essay in Gallantry; being a very pretty Wench, and of a very good Family. He had no sooner discovered his passion to her, but he promised himself Success. The plain Countrey Lovers, use commonly very little Formality in their Amours; 'tis but telling one another they are in Love, and the business is done. But our Gallant had read Romances; and strictly observing the Punctilios of Gallantry, made his Declaration in due time and place, and was kindly received by his excellent Mistress.

6 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,

Diana, the Nymph I am speaking of, was more honest and innocent, than those of her Character ordinarily are: Chamber-maides in the Country, having not the Advantages incident to those of the Town; who, in a short time, become such Proficients in the Mysteries of Gallantry, that they quickly Commence Mistresses of the Art. *John Le Brun* had the Dexterity to persuade her, That his Passion was arrived to that height, that nothing but her pitty cou'd secure him from present Death. The good-Natur'd Girle, who would have been troubled in Conscience, to see a young Man (who lov'd her so tenderly) dye for want of her help, easily resolved to give him Ease. This Scene of Love was to be acted in a Garden; where, under pretence of eating Cherries,

Cherries, Diana took John with her to shake the Tree. I know very well (said she, with a Counterfeit Modesty) that what I do here is contrary to my Duty, and a blemish to my Honour: But seeing the necessity of losing you, or my self, I find the Consideration of my Life a great deal too light to be ballanced with yours: But I hope I shall have to do with a Man of Honour, and Honesty, who will take care of my Reputation, and not abuse me for that which Love forces me to in kindness to him. The Gallant, you may imagine, fail'd not on this occasion to make use of the deepest Oaths, and the highest Protestations of Love and Fidelity, to strengthen the Inclination, and settle the mind of so kind a Mistress.

John, being so nearly related to the Curat, needed no other

8 *The Cheating Gallant*: or,
Recommendation to gain liberty
of Access to the Castle, and main-
tain a-while his Correspondence
and Familiarity with the Cham-
ber-maid, without Interruption:
But by degrees, notice was taken
of a particular Kindness between
them, though no body dreamt of
their being so intimate, as they
really were. Among all the Fa-
mily, *Diana* made choyce of the
Lady of the Place, to be her on-
ly Confident: But, though she
had singled her out from a mul-
titude of others, she daily Con-
verſt with, she did not think fit
to trust her with the Adventure
of the Cherry-Tree; being so Ro-
mantique, that she judg'd it not
proper to be Communicated to
any; but especially, to her Mi-
ſtreſs.

The Lady was Handsome, and
very Inclenable: and to cover
her

her Sins, had taken a Husband advanced in Years; who, warn'd by some Visions concerning his Honour, had taken a Resolution to quit the Town, and retire into the Country; in hopes, by the benefit of that Aire, to be cured of the Head-ach, that troubled him in the Town. But let us do what we can, we shall all have our Fortunes; and he that is born to have a kind Wife, is sure to go to Heaven, if Horns can help him thither. The poor Lady confined to a Village, where she could scarce see once in a Month a Man any way Tollerable, had no other Pleasure in her Solitude, but to meditate sometimes on her good Actions past; and relate them to *Diana*, whom she found a very good Girl, and capable of a Secret.

8 *The Cheating Gallant*: or,

Recommendation to gain liberty of Access to the Castle, and maintain a-while his Correspondence and Familiarity with the Chamber-maid, without Interruption: But by degrees, notice was taken of a particular Kindness between them, though no body dreamt of their being so intimate, as they really were. Among all the Family, *Diana* made choyce of the Lady of the Place, to be her only Confident: But, though she had singled her out from a multitude of others, she daily Converst with, she did not think fit to trust her with the Adventure of the Cherry-Tree; being so Romantique, that she judged it not proper to be Communicated to any; but especially, to her Mistress.

The Lady was Handsome, and very Inclenable: and to cover
her

her Sins, had taken a Husband advanced in Years; who, warn'd by some Visions concerning his Honour, had taken a Resolution to quit the Town, and retire into the Country; in hopes, by the benefit of that Aire, to be cured of the Head-ach, that troubled him in the Town. But let us do what we can, we shall all have our Fortunes; and he that is born to have a kind Wife, is sure to go to Heaven, if Horns can help him thither. The poor Lady confined to a Village, where she could scarce see once in a Month a Man any way Tollerable, had no other Pleasure in her Solitude, but to meditate sometimes on her good Actions past; and relate them to *Diana*, whom she found a very good Girl, and capable of a Secret.

10 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,

This Lady being a very experienc'd Lover, was the first that discovered the Amour of the Chamber-Maid, and the Curat's Nephew, and was so far from opposing it, as some proud ill-natur'd Mistress would have done, that she favour'd their Intrigues, by taking frequent Walks into the Garden, and the Fields; and making *Diana* partaker of that pleasure, gave her the opportunity of meeting *John Le-Brun* almost every day, and took singular delight to see these Country-Lovers Court and make Love; but made as if she knew nothing of the business, nor took the least notice of it to *Diana*. But the good natur'd Maid, thinking herself oblig'd by these favours from her Mistress, (to let her know something) she took the occasion as they were sitting under a Tree, discour-

discourfing of Love, to difcover to her a Secret of mighty importance (wherein ſhe pray'd her advice) that the Curat's Nephew had a great paſſion for her, and that ſhe found her ſelf pretty well inclined, but apprehended ſome Conſequences which perplext her mind, that ſhe knew not what to reſolve on. Her Miſtreſs ſmiling, and with an aire of kindneſs, laying her Arm over her Neck, deſired her to tell her truly if ſhe were gone no further. *Diana* bluſht, not knowing what Answer to make.

The Miſtreſs taking advantage of the Confuſion of the Lover, told her ſhe had too good an opinion of *John Le-Brun*, to believe he had ſo long left her in a Condition to doubt in this point; and that if ſhe would confeſs the truth, ſhe muſt acknowledge, ſhe
asked

12 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
asked Counsel too late about that
particular, that she need not hide
it from her, being already as-
sured she Lov'd him, and willing
to serve her in any thing for her
advantage. So much Complaisance,
and so extraordinary Kindness
from a Mistress, in whose power
it was to do very much for her,
did so charm *Diana*, that it en-
gaged her at the same time to
speak a little more freely of the
affair: So that the Lady, who was
very dextrous at pumping out
Secrets, made her confess that
what at first she had term'd a
bare inclination, was in truth a
settled Passion. That if *John*
Lov'd *Diana*, she Lov'd him no
less; and descending by degrees
to matters of fact, they discours'd
of some favours she had not had
the power to deny him,

The

The pretty Maid (in the end) ingeniously confest they were come to some close Familiarities of Love, but she would take care he should find it a hard matter to proceed any further, unless he would Marry her.

The Mistress, who had never descended to those fondnesses of Love, but where she design'd to grant her Lover all he could wish, knew well enough what to think of the business, yet was unwilling at that time to press that point any further, but had the Curiosity to know the beginning and progress of the Amour, and sully informed her self of the smallest trifles and fooleries which gave her a very pleasant divertisement, till at last she perfectly learnt the whole state of the affair, their Rendezvouz and places of Affignation, to the very Conclusion.

The

14 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,

The easie *Diana* knew not what a person she had to deal with, and to whom she had imparted her Secret. There is nothing whereof a Woman ought to be more distrustful, than of another Woman, especially in matters of Love; there being nothing in the World whereof a Woman is more jealous, than of the good Fortune of another. This was not the first time, that the Mistress became Rival to her Maid. The Lady was not only of a very susceptible Nature, but had already cast her Eyes on the Illustrious *John Le Brun*; who, for Handsomness and Wit, was (without Contradiction) the Flower of the Village. But the many Measures she was to take, the hazard she was to run in trusting a Raw young Fellow, a meer Novice in Love; and the perpetu-
all

all Watch of her Husband kept over her Actions, so startled her Reason, that till then, they had moderated (if not smother'd) the Transports of her Amorous Soul. But the Inclination this Gallant had entertain'd for a Chamber-Maid, had highly fomented in the Heart of the Mistress those Seeds of Rebellion, and Revolt from her Duty, long since implanted there. And the Story she had newly heard of the state of their Amour, made her absolutely resolve to make use of the occasion, for sharing with her Maid in the Pleasure she had to see *John Le Brun*.

You may easily believe, the Lady design'd not to engage in the Conquest of her Chamber-Maids Gallant; but was very willing *Diana* should have the Honour of it, allowing her Mistress

16 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
a share in the use of it, to satisfy Nature, and no more : And Nature is commonly content with the Use, not troubling her self about the Property.

We have all our Infirmities ; and those of this Temper are the more pardonable, in that it is almost impossible to master them : and this passionate Lady was not disposed to offer any Violence to her Inclinations. She thought of her Pleasure, and the Joy that attends it, not troubling her self with scruples and doubts ; and had formed in her Mind a thousand Designs to obtain her Desires.

John was lookt upon in the Castle, as *Diana's* Servant ; which gave the Lady a fair occasion to laugh, to speak, to walk with him when she pleased, without any suspicion, if *Diana* were in
Com-

Company. But the old Gentleman, whether fearing the Amours of these two Lovers would set his Wife alonging, or that he was jealous of all the World, as of her, began to dislike the great Familiarity and Freedom John used in his House. He went to the Curate, and told him, *It was pity a young Man as his Nephew, who had so good Parts to make him useful in the Church, should lose his time as he did: And that, being lookt upon as worthy to succeed him in his Benefice, and be one day the Pastor of his Flock, should think of nothing but making of Love: That this proceeding did not edifye at all: That he must begin betimes to implant in him a Contempt of the World, and an Affection for Retyredness. In a word, that Prayer and Study ought to be the principal Business of the Nephew.*

18 *The Cheating Gallant: or, phew of so honest a Gentleman as he was: That he told him this as a Friend, and hoped his Advice would be well taken.*

This Sermon being ended, the Curate gave his Worship humble Thanks for the Favour he did him, and his Nephew; and when time served, both should acknowledge it: But he knew well enough where his Worship was pinched. He had not kept his Jealousie so close, but the Curate knew the Disease he was troubled with; and might very well judge, That his Nephew (Young and Handsom as he was) could not spend his time so constantly in the Castle, without giving him some Umbrage. However, he forgot not to give his Nephew a Lecture when he came home at Night; and to forbid him (on pain of his Displeasure) to go any more to the
the

the Castle, for Reasons not to be made known at present; but received from so good a hand, there was no cause to fear he that gave them could be mistaken. *John* knew not what this meant; but meeting *Diana* on the Morrow (having watched above an Hour for an opportunity to speak to him) she told him the News, that clear'd all doubts: acquainting him, That her Master had charged her Mistress, and her, to see him no more, nor take him along with them to walk; his Uncle having made it is Request, fearing his Nephews hankering after Women, might hinder him in his Vocation; and as for him, he was resolv'd it should not be said, he was spoyl'd in his House.

John Le Brun was not a little astonisht so see himself deprived
in

20 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,

in a moment, not only of the sight and Conversation of his Mistress, but of the lovely Company of his Lady; who had already discovered some good Inclinations, which (cultivated with Care) promised him more Good than could be expected from the Love of a Chamber-maid. The Vanity of his Nature, and the good Opinion he had of himself, made him apt to flatter himself on any occasion: and, as to this Lady, he had certainly reason enough for it: For, the kindness she exprest for his Person, accompanied with that obliging Behaviour she seasoned it withall, gave him ground enough to hope for some Favour. But then, when he thought himself the happiest of Men, or (at least) in a fair way to be so; he received the sad News, which blasted his Pretensions, and made all his
Hopes

Hopes vanish. You might have expected to find him Irrecoverably swallowed up by Despair; and he had certainly been so; had not the simple *Diana* bid him not trouble himself for the matter; and told him, Her Mistress, and she, had thought of a way to see him; if not by Day as formerly, it should be at Night: That she had for that purpose, been that Morning betimes with one of her Friends, a Lock-Smith, and carried him in Wax, the print of the two Keyes, to the Back-gate of the Castle; and that, before Night, she would give him an account of them, if he would but take the pains to be at that Place about Nine in the Evening. The Spirits of our afflicted Gallant were not a little raised by the hopes she gave him; and you may believe, he promised

22 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
sed faithfully not to fail the Aggri-
vation.

The poor Girle was in earnest,
and thought her self extreemly
obliged to her Mistress; who all
this while, laboured nothing more
than to do her the worst Office
one Woman can do another in
Love; which is, to rob her of
her Lover. But it was her Fol-
ly not to see, that the Concern-
ment her Mistress exprest for
Johns misfortune was too great,
to be free from Suspition. She
had not made such hast to find
the means to let him into her
House by Night, but that she
was Particularly and Personally
concern'd. And it was apparent
enough, that, running an equal
Risque in all Dangers with *Diana*,
she did in Justice expect to share
in her Pleasures.

The

The Lock-Smith made ready the Keys the same day; and was payd so nobly, as to oblige him to keep their Counsel. *John* was at the place of Rendezvouz at the Hour *Diana* had appointed him, who was as punctual as he; and told him, All was well, and that she just came from trying the Keyes; and that, at Eleven a Clock, when the Old Gentleman was a bed: He had no more to do, but come to the Back-gate, which she would then open for him.

This Gate opened to a back Stair to the Ladies Apartment, where the Gallant might attend without any danger: At Eleven a Clock he stood Centinel, as appointed, and was introduced. *John*, who perhaps was a little cloy'd with the easie Possession of *Diana*, when he found her Mistress

24 *The Cheating Gallant*: or,

strefs lookt so kindly upon him; yet, ravished with the opportunity, found the Fire within him kindled so strongly at his being so near her in the Dark, with her Slippers under her Arms; that he could not stay till he came into the Chamber, to let her know how much he loved her; but put off his Shoes, to find some other Warmth for his Feet.

The Lady, who expected them, growing impatient at their stay, would needs go see what stopt their coming: She went to the Stair-head, without Shooes or Light; and hearing nothing of them, had a mind to go down to the Gate. The two Lovers were careful not to make a Noise, being not well assured it was she, or else to conceal from her the Trade they then drove. They scarce breathed; so that, the Lady

dy, whom the spirit of Curiosity pusht on to her Ruin, in going down Stairs, unfortunately made a false Step, and tumbled over them down several Steps. And how little soever she was beholding to Love for the Accident, she was certainly much obliged to Fortune, in that she escaped so well from so dangerous a Fall. You may imagine, what a peck of Troubles *John* and *Diana* were now in: The Noyse her Mistress made in her Fall, was enough to raise all the House, but that it was in a Lodging, a-part from those of the Servants: much more might it have awaked the good Man, where the greatest Danger lay; but he had the good Quality to sleep very soundly; and, by good Luck, heard nothing at all.

C

The

26 *The Cheating Gallant: or,*

The first thing *John* did, was to get to the Gate for fear of misfortune; and, almost at the bottom of the Stairs, he found the Unfortunate Lady; which, had he had a Candle, would doubtless have been a very rare sight. *Diana* came to help her up the Staires, which she had so nimbly gone down. She had happily saved her Face, which gave her some Comfort: but for the rest, there was not a part of her Body but was sensible of her Fall.

The Gallant, judging they had business enough for that Night, to apply Remedies for the Bruises, without further use of him; with-drew softly, and went his way Home: He had Newes at his Rising, that the Lady was better; and that she was not so ill, but she desired to see him again that Night. He came the same

same Hour to the Gate; which being opened, he resolved not to lose time with *Diana* on these unfortunate Staires, for fear of another ill Accident, but went strait, where the Lady expected him: She had told her Husband a fair story of her Mis-adventure; and made that advantage of it, that she obtain'd leave to lye alone for three or four Nights, in a Chamber near his. The good Man could not have imagin'd, that his Wife, in the Condition she was in, could think of Love: But this Passion takes away the sense of any other Affliction.

John Le Brun was Conducted to the Chamber, where he found the fair Lady dressed in her Bed, like a Goddess: Some of the Servants were yet up; and *Diana* was ordered to hold them in talk, till they went to their Chambers,

28 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
bers, for fear they should come
and hearken. Unless you will be-
lieve, the Mistress found out this
Sleeveless Errand for *Diana*, that
she the while might have the
Liberty, to speak a Word in Pri-
vate to the Curate's Nephew.
Well, John, (said she, with a
Smile, as soon as the Chamber-
maid was gone) you see what we
do for you; We expose our selves
to be talked of: We give our
selves trouble for you: We almost
kill our selves for you, and you
(perhaps) have not the least Sense of
it. You should do me wrong, Ma-
dam, (answered the Crafty Ne-
phew) to accuse me of that: I
was grievously troubled at the un-
happy Accident befell you last
Night: It is impossible any Man
could be more concerned than I
was: I swear t' you, I could not
sleep a Wink all Night; and this
Morn-

Morning, as soon as 'twas day, I
burn'd with Impatience to hear
Newes of you. Say what you please
(Replied she) I will not believe
you; you are a Dissembler, and this
is not the first day I knew you such:
But let that pass. Do you know
(said she, letting fall her Voyce,
as if she would have told him a
Secret) that I have had a great
Quarrel for the Love of you. For
the Love of me, Madam, (said he,
much amazed at her Discourse!)
Yes (Replied she) for the Love
of you: My Husband hath been
told, that you were in Love with
me; And further, that you were
not hated. I, (said John, with
very great Humility) I Madam;
should I, the Nephew of your Cu-
rate, lift up my Eyes, and fix them
on the Wife of his Lord? Ah
Madam, if there were cause, I could
easily justifie my self: I know too

30 The Cheating Gallant : or,
well the Respect I owe you, Ma-
dam. ——— Respect (Replied she)
is nothing in this Case; Poor
Shepherds have been in Love with
Queens, and Queens with Shep-
herds. You are Young, Handsom,
and Witty; 'tis too well known.
I am not satisfied with a Husband
I was forced to Marry against my
will: And the constant Resort you
have for some time had to our Fa-
mily, was more than enough to
raise a Jealousie in the Parties
concerned, you came upon design.
But, Madam, (Reply'd the Gal-
lant, charm'd with this obliging
Newes) 'tis very well known, I
came for Love of Diana. Dia-
na (said she.) Alas poor innocent
Soul! 'Tis easie to judge, a Youth
such as you, if at Liberty to make
his Court where he pleas'd, would
sooner address himself to me, than
to her. I thank Heaven (added
she,

she, blushing a little) you see, I want not what may render me amiable; and what is such a Girl good for, but to serve for a Colour when I am in place?

John had by this time an eager desire to draw some advantage from this pleasant Discourse: Till now he stood in the Chamber, like a dutiful Vassal, in Presence of his Lords Wife, his Hat under his Arme, and at three or four Paces distance from the Bed: But the kind Lady was pleased to make him draw nearer, and sit upon the Bed, that (as she said) she might not be obliged to speak so loud, for fear of awaking the good Man. The Door was shut, and no cause of Fear on his side; but rather on *Diana's*, who might chance to be frightened at so much Familiarity between John, and her Mistress; who, notwithstanding,

32 *The Cheating Gallant*: or,
never troubled her self for it,
knowing *Diana* could not return
very quickly.

John having taken his place
at the Beds-Feet, after twice or
thrice bidding, and absolute Com-
mands reiterated for doing so:
And who, think you (said she)
hath done you this ill Office with
my Husband? *Alas Madam* (an-
swered he) *how should I know?*
There is no want of wicked Peo-
ple in the World, and I have e-
nough in the Village, that envy
my Happiness. *It would surprize*
you (said she) *to be told it is my*
Chamber-maid. *Who Diana* (an-
swered *John*, astonisht to hear it):
Ah Madam, it cannot be; I know
her too well, to believe her capa-
ble of such Treachery. *Make not*
so much hast (Replied the Lady)
to take her part: You have not,
perhaps, more reason to defend her
than

than I. Consider, if ever I had cause to suspect her: She was alwayes my Confident; I trusted her with all my Secrets: And though I knew you frequented my House for Love of her, I could not but let her understand, I loved your Wit, and took pleasure in your Conversation. I did more; and, perhaps, was guilty of too much Imprudence, when I bid her assure you from me, that I had Kindness for you, and that you might depend upon me as your Friend: That I desired very much to do for you, and advance you: That you could not want the thing I would not furnish you with for asking: And that I would have you speak to me freely. Had she been your Friend, she would not have concealed from you the kind and advantageous thoughts I had for you: But I see well enough, 'twas her

34 *The Cheating Gallant : or,*
Toussie hindred her, and made her
Reveal the Secret to some one of
the House; who, without doubt,
hath told it my Husband. The
Gallant, who clearly saw what
this Discourse tended to, answered,
I assure you Madam, she never
did me the favour to acquaint
me with these obliging Evidences
of your Goodness; otherwise, I had
not been now to thank you for them:
and now, me-thinks, I begin
to believe what you say. The
Lady, Ravish'd with Joy that
John was of her mind, pusht on
her Amorous Design; and made
him absolutely believe *Diana* guilty
of what she was accused; and
that the best way to revenge her,
was, to make a Fool of her. I
know (said she) you love me:
[*John* durst not say other-wise]
and, though you never told me so,
I have perceived it by your Eyes:

BUT

But to make our best of this business, Diana must not know any thing I have told you; but use her as formerly, and you shall find you cannot be unhappy: To prove what I say, (added she, shewing him a Purse taken from under her Pillow) here are fifty Pistols for you: Assure your self, while you love me, and are discreet, you shall want for nothing. What Heart of the Temper of John's, could have resisted such a Favour? Never did a Mistress in Romance acquit her self better: Ladies that dare not rely on their Charms of Beauty for Conquest, if they make use of this course, shall never want Lovers. The Gallant was so transported with the Present received, that (forgetting the Respect due to the Lady) he embraced her Knees a thousand times through the Bed - Cloaths.

She,

36 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
She, out of Modesty, would have
put him off; but it was, that he
might apply himself else-where.
The Gallant, though naturally
bold, durst not at first venture a-
ny farther: Yet he had the bold-
ness to steal a Kiss, which he
took, finding her so nigh him,
that she seem'd to offer it him.
'Tis enough (said she, with a lan-
guishing Voyce); However, do
not think, though I give you the
Liberty to see me by Night, to be
alone with me in my Chamber,
and to sit on my Bed without Wit-
ness or Danger, that I will grant
you any more. John Le Brun was
too Intelligent, not to compre-
hend the Meaning of these
Words; But Diana coming in,
interrupted the course of this sweet
Conversation.

There past nothing more at
that time worthy Relation: John
re-

retiring presently after, so incensed against poor *Diana*, he had not the Patience to Caress her in the least, taking leave at the Gate, whither she accompanied him to lock it. But how could he longer Love a Chamber-maid, which had given him at most, but some Knots of Ribband, and two or three Cravats, or some other Trifles of inconsiderable Value; when he had found a Mistress, who, for her first Complement, honoured him with a Purse of fifty Pistols.

He had never been so Rich in his Life; nor could he take any rest that Night, for thinking with what grace of Address she had made him that Present, and how he should lay it out: All these Fancies vanish'd at the Approach of Day; and he was no sooner up, but he wisht with Impatience, that

38 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
that Night were come. His
Thoughts were wholly taken up
with the Charms of the Lady:
He could not sufficiently admire,
with what address she had made
him understand she loved him,
and desired that he should love
her again: But that which
Charm'd him most, was her
Grace in performing a Generous
Action. He was ready to dye
with longing to see her again, as
if all his Visits were to be paid
with ready Money. He knew
very well to make use of Op-
portunity, which, at this Day,
is the best Science in the World,
and the true use of Things. Night
came at last, but it was long to
Eleven a Clock; and in Con-
junctions of this kind, Moments
are tedious.

Diana, who knew not the rea-
son he had entertained her so
coldly

coldly the Night before, waited with as much Impatience as he, to see him again: But he was so cruel, that he made no more account of her this, than the former Night; nor would be perswaded to stay a moment to hear her; and when she reproacht him for it, he answer'd her with Sights. The Poor Girl was amazed at the Change, and could not imagine any thing less than such a Perfidiousness, especially in her Mistress.

John entred the Ladyes Chamber, whom he found on a Bed of State, finer than ever he had seen her. Poor *Diana* was sent again to amuse the People of the House, though there was not the least need of it: But the truth is, they had no need of her there, and were willing to amuse her. Never till then did she know what
Jealousie

40 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
Jealousie was, having loved in
peace, and in a full Tranquili-
ty ; in Confidence, her Gallant
had loved her as faithfully : The
Indifference of a Lover, is an ap-
parent Mark of Perfidiousness.
The Distaste we have of one Ob-
ject, is commonly the Effect of
Pleasure taken in another. Love
is an incurable Disease ; and he
that hath been once in Love,
will ever be so with one thing or
other.

The dejected *Diana* went mu-
sing with her self, what cause
she had given her Lover to use
her thus : But the more she
thought on what was past, the
more she found he had nothing
to reproach her with, but too
much Love ; and that the Change
she observed in him, must be a
pure Effect of his Inconstancy,
which inclin'd him another way.

This

This put her upon examining who should be her Rival: *Is it* (said she) *the Stewards Daughter?* No. *Is it the Scrivenars Daughter?* No. *Is it such a ones Neece?* or *such a ones Sister?* No, no. [Thus she ran over all the handsome Girles in the Village, without finding any just Ground of Suspicion.] *Did he Love any of those I am thinking of?* Or had he some new Inclination, where I cannot imagin; What had he to do here? And yet, What cause can he have to use me, as he does these two dayes past? 'Tis but three dayes since he swore to me, it were Death to him, to let him go to Bed without a sight of me; And this Evening he runs away from me; he will not speak to me; he will not so much as hear me: Whence comes this cruel proceeding? If he loves me no longer, why comes he

42 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
he so punctually to the Gate? He
waited there before the time ap-
pointed; and as soon as he saw
me, he thought no more of me.
O Heavens, me-thinks I see the
beginning of all this disorder: He
is in Love with my Lady. I ob-
serve, she hath of late more Care
than ever of her Person, and Dress;
especially at Night, when he is to
come; so much Dressing, so much
Curling, so much Patching, so much
Powder, so many Scents, are not
for nothing. I am sent hither;
What to do? Heavens! How in-
nocent am I? My Love of him,
and Confidence in her, have blinded
me quite.

These were stinging Reflecti-
ons for a Girl in Love, to fancy
her self not only betray'd, but
made a Fool. She needed no
more to make her leave the wor-
thy Employment they had given
her;

her; and to go softly, to spy through the Key-hole, the Posture of those she suspected: She sees her perfidious Lover, and her honest Mistress so closely joyned, she had reason to think them both of a piece: What a sight was this for the poor *Diana*! She wish'd her self blind, and was ready to dy for Grief; and in this distress, fetched two or three deep Sighs, which those within might easily have heard, but that they were busie about some-what else. This turn'd *Diana's* Grief into Despair; and now, nothing but Revenge can give her Satisfaction; which she might soon obtain, by giving the old Gentleman notice of what was a doing, and inviting him to see the Comedy in Action: This she resolved upon; but had scarce given too Knocks at his Chamber-

44 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,

ber-door, but she relented into a tenderness, that moderated her Fury: [An Irresolution to which Persons in Love are usually subject, amidst their highest Transports.] She considered her Lover should be utterly undone, if the Old Gentleman found him with his Wife; and that it would be a means to lose him for her self, as well as for her Mistress: This Consideration prevailed over her Resentment: She pittied him, and thought it sufficient to go, and make them ashamed, by reproaching them to their Faces, for their Infamous Treachery.

The good Man, who had half heard the last Knock, not knowing whether he had heard, or only dreamt of a Noise; to be satisfied, goes to the Door; and hearing some Body go back very softly,

softly, thought there were Thieves in the House. He runs to his Sword, which had not been drawn since the Warrs of *Paris*, where he had served in Person: He takes his Captains Pike in his Hand, and puts his Helmet on his Head; which carryed before, a sufficient load of his Wives putting on.

Diana in the mean-time, groping on the Wall; and considering how to take *John* and her Mistress in the Act, that they might not have any colour of Denyal; met a Man, whom she presently took for her Perfidious Lover. *Are these your tricks Traytour* (said she?) *Canst thou think such Falseness can escape unpunished? If none else, Heaven will Revenge me.* The Old Gentleman, in the Emotion he was in, never minding on what side

46 *The Cheating Gallant*: or,
sife he had heard the Noyse of
the Thieves, Ran in his Shirt
without any Light, towards where
he heard *Diana's* Voyce; holding
his Pike at full length, and before
him; and making a Noyse with
it enough to raise the whole House:
Who goes there, cryed he, as loud
as possible; which so frightened
Diana, that, quitting him she had
laid hold on, she went to hid her
self, for fear her Masters Anger
should all light upon her, if found
with her Gallant. *Who is there*, said
he once more: No Person stir-
red. In the mean time he bran-
dished the Pike the one way,
and the other, till at last he felt
some-thing under it: Then did
he double his Fury, and with a
thundring Voice, *Speak* (said he)
who is there? or you dye. *Ah*
Sir (answered the Wretch that
was caught, with a lamentable
Tone)

Tone) *Pitty your poor Curate,*
and do not kill him. No Curate,
Replied the Cholerick old Man,
who, in the trouble he was in,
understood not what was said,
nor perceived that it was the
Curate that spoke; but cryed
out, *Thou shalt dye like a Robber*
as thou art: Confess quickly, that
I may dispatch thee: This he said,
seconding every Word with a
Blow.

John Le Brun, and the Lady,
frightned with this bustle, thought
it high time to look about them:
They knew not whether the
Noyse were raised about them,
or on some other occasion; But
the Gallant, for more Surety, held
it best to save himself: They
put out the Candle; and, open-
ing the Door softly, he thought
to slip away through the Croud
in the Dark; but (unfortunately)
fell

48 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
fell foul on the good Old Man,
and laid him along on the ground,
Pike, Helmet, and all. Then
did he cry out to purpose; *Thieves,*
Thieves; Help, help; I am dead!
All the People of the House (ha-
ving already heard part of the
Noyse he had made) ran to him
thick and three-fold: His Lady
too, having had Leisure enough
to alter her Dress (making as if
she were in mighty hast in her
Night-Gown); no sooner saw the
Light, but she came to know
what the matter was: Amazed
to see her Husband guarded round
with all his Domesticks in Arms,
from the Kitchen; which made
such a Clattering, that they un-
derstood not one another. But
that which was most pleasant to see,
was, The Old Man (like a Sta-
tue) laid flat on the Ground;
his Helmet on his Head, his Pike
not in

in his Hand, a Belt over his Shoulder two Inches thick, a Rapier at his Side four or five Foot long; and all this in his Shirt only, which was an excellent Equipage, to draw a Pourtrait in ridicule by. None of the Servants, but had a Moneths mind to Laugh; But the Lady Acted her Part best: She cry'd, she wept, she afflicted her self for the unhappy Accident befalln her dear Husband, not knowing what Vision had appeared to him. The rest did their Master the best Service they could; some taking off his Helmet, others his Belt, others his Sword. The good Man took on grievously, extreamly concerned lest the Thieves should escape; and Commanding his Servants to pursue them; telling them, there were (at least) half a dozen in the House, and that

D he

50 *The Cheating Gallant: or,*
had seen them, though all this
while in the Dark. But his Wife
having long since represented him,
and made him pass for a Man
much subject to Fancies, and Va-
garies; his Servants, who knew
what he affirmed was impossible,
could not look at one another with-
out Laughing.

Just thus (said the Lady) *when*
I fell the last Night, I thought
there were Spirits in the House.
Death (answered the old Man,
in a Rage) *these were no Spirits;*
witness my Pike, with which I
have killed one, or (at least) mis-
sed but little of killing him; for,
he called for the Curate to take his
Confession. This Discourse set all
the Folks a Laughing; which
so vexed the Old Man, that, han-
dling his Pike again, he threat-
ned to be Revenged of them all,
as so many Thieves within doors,
holding

holding Correspondence with those without, unless they would pursue them. To satisfy him, they took upon them to make search for them in the Castle: But whether it were that the Lady reserved her own Quarter to be free from search, or imploy'd them at distance, no notice was taken of; the back-gate being the Place of Rendezvous.

Diana, at length appeared before her Master; and, though much out of Humour, forgot not her Duty in making fast the Gate: This done, she went up to her Ladies Chamber, where she lay: Here was Acted the Scene that discovered the whole Plot. The Lady Laught, and wondered *Diana* was so sad: And both being laid, *What* (said the Lady) *you are troubled I warrant you, that your Lover is gone without seeing you?*

52 *The Cheating Gallant : or,*

*Fool, thou shalt see him to Morrow: Would you have had him stay till they had search'd my Chamber? Ah Madam (answered Diana) I would to God they had found him here. And why, (replied the Lady, much surprized at the Answer) Why (said Diana) You know well enough; and that he came not hither for my sake. The subtle Lady, fell a Laughing; and Embracing Diana, told her, She now saw she loved John in good Earnest, since she was jealous of him, and upon her account, whom of all the World, she had least cause to fear; but she would pardon her unjust Suspicion. Diana unwilling to be altogether fool'd, replied, That her Susptions were too well ground-
ed: And seeing her Lady continue Laughing at her, What Madam, said she, (with that Ardor
and*

and Vehemence Truth usually inspires into those who maintain it) *have not I seen you with John in such and such Postures? Did not you tell him this? did not you tell him that?* — Which the Lady hearing, *How now Insolence (said she) are you a Spy on my Actions? May not I do what I please in my Chamber for you? Who is the middle of the Garden* — and pausing at that Word, she afterwards proceeded, *Witness the Cherry-Tree.* Diana grew paler, and more confounded than ever: But knowing they were but equally match'd one to one, she recovered her Courage; and with as much heat as her Lady, gave her story for story; and reproach'd her with all the Gallantries of her Life past, which she had the goodness to relate to her. The Lady, not able to en-

54 *The Cheating Gallant* : or ,
dure it, without a transport of
Rage, beyond what is allow'd to
Persons of Quality of her Sex,
was not content to make use of
her Hands (finding *Diana* as good
at that Sport as her self) but
ran for a stick, which she had in
the Chamber. *Diana* perceiving
it, thought it time to with-draw
into a place of Safety; and find-
ing no other than the Bed, as
she was going under it, she sees
a Mans Leg, and then another;
and by degrees, the rest of the
Body, drest after the old Fashion:
What a fright was she in? Her
Mistress running after her, stum-
bled on the Feet of the Spirit,
and fell to the Ground: Thus
was the Anger of these Female
Combatants appeased on the sud-
dain; and they look'd one on
the other, to inquire who the Man
should be; and how he came
thither:

thither: Have you ever seen two Enemies joyn Forces at the Appearance of a Third, stronger than both? Just so did these Rivals agree in a Corner of the Chamber, where they durst scarce breath; taking the sight of this Object, for an Effect of Divine Justice: and believing it could be nothing else, but an Evil Spirit, sent from the other World to put them in mind of their Sins. At last, this Spirit spoke; and putting off an old Gray Hat he had upon his Head, *Madam* (said he) *you must pardon your poor Curate, unhappily exposed to the Hazard both of Life, and Reputation; the Loss of both could not have been prevented, if (by good Fortune) he had not found your Chamber-door open; where he came to hide himself, when you were gone forth. The two Females, hearing the Voyce and Name of their good Friend,*

56 *The Cheating Gallant*: or,

the Curate, recovered a little Courage, but durst not yet adventure going nigh him; because Spirits are apt to Lye: And they had reason to fear, this same had a mind to abuse them; it being not propable, that Mr. Curate should be in their Chamber that time of Night, and in such an Equipage: But finding him at length a very peaceable Spirit, they ventured to go nigh him, and knew him. It was so surprizing, and so pleasant a sight to see him in a great Gray Waistcoat, and a Hat drest like a Sow-Gelder, that they could not forbear Laughing. 'Tis indeed a Laughing Business, said he, & some-what angry for the small Compassion they had for him); but you have your share as well as I, in the Adventure: 'Tis true, I bear the Blowes; But unless you would have me discover all,
do

do your Endeavour to help me out from hence, that I may go Home. Mr. Curate (answered the Lady) what is written is written: You have been Young as we are; and you know, you should do so to others, as you would they should do to you. We have every one his part in what hath hapned this Evening. I have too much to my share (said the Curate) and I feel it I am sure. Therefore (said the Lady) let us keep one anothers Counsel: Diana shall go open you the Gate; But let us know first what Misfortune brought you hither, where you have so little Business. 'Tis true, Madam, (answered the Curate) I might very well have let alone the Business I had here; but the too great Affection I have for that Rogue, my Nephew, hath brought me to the fine Condition you see me in:

58 *The Cheating Gallant: or,*
For, three or four Nights last past,
I observed he went out of his Lodg-
ing at an unseasonable Hour, and
returned very late: The Care I have
alwayes had of his Education, and
the Charitable Remonstrance I late-
ly had from my Lord your Hus-
band, made me think my self ob-
liged to follow him this Night, to
see where he went. I saw him en-
ter the Castle, at the Back-Gate;
and intended to wait his Return,
to ask him, What he had been do-
ing? But growing impatient at
his stay so long, I took the Pains
to get up hither by the same Gate:
And now I cannot but think it was
by the Instigation of the Devil:
For, as I came groaping along the
Rooms, I met Diana, who put me
into a bodily Fear, and mistook
me for my Nephew: Presently
after, came in my Lord, your Hus-
band, who frightened me to the pur-
pose;

pose; For, not knowing whether to flye, I threw my self like a simple Sott under his Pike, with which he thought to kill me: At last, Madam, to conclude in a word, (said the Curate, Smiling when he saw them Laugh) I came, I saw; but the Mischief is, I was over-come, and soundly beaten.

The Curate had a pretty Faculty at Railing, which gave the Lady occasion to shew him some Kindness; and pray'd him, He would not ill use his Nephew. As to that, Madam, (answered he) I know what I have to do: I am willing for your sake to forget what is past; but must intreat you to take order for the future, that no Mischief come of it. Could my Nephew pay you his Respects without Consequence, and that my Honour were not concerned as well Yours, I should give him up to
your

60 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
your dispose, to do with him what
you pleas'd: But 'tis a wild Youth,
who, in the end, will Ruin You,
and Me; and 'tis (absolutely) ne-
cessary to let him go and Travel
for some time, and learn to get
his Living in another Country.
The Lady would press him no
further, hoping the Affection he
had for his dear Nephew, would
make him alter his Resolution.

The Curate in the mean time
takes his leave; and, *Diana* ha-
ving opened the Gate for him,
he went Home, where he found
the Gallant in a very sweet Sleep:
But his good Uncle having a-
wak'd him, he was amaz'd to see
him at that Hour in his Cham-
ber; and ask'd him, *What he*
pleas'd to have? I come to tell
you (answered the Curate) *That*
my Lord would fain speak with
you. Speak with me (replied
John!)

John!) Yes, with you, (said the Curate) about some Froliques that have been done this Night in the Castle, for which a Freind of yours had like to have been well beaten. John was not a little surprized at the Discourse; but however, he swore and protested, He knew nothing of the Matter; That it was three Dayes since he had been in the Castle; and they did him wrong to charge him with their Disorders. They have done you wrong indeed (replyed the Curate) but it was, in letting you escape as they did. Tell me, you Arch-Rogue, Went not you into the Castle by the Back-Gate, at Eleven a Clock this Evening? You think no body has seen you play your Pranks with the Lady; You came not out of her Chamber at the Noyse made by the old Lord, whom you thought to have dispatched;

All

62 *The Cheating Gallant: or,*

All this, I know to be false; therefore, get you up, and clear your self before him; 'Tis Hanging matter if you do it not. The unhappy Nephew was sufficiently troubled; not able to defend himself from Conviction, where the Proofs were so clear: He knew the Kindness his Uncle had in store for him, throwes himself at his Feet, confesses all, and begs his Pardon. There is but one Remedy (said the Curate) you must put on your Cloaths, and be gone immediately for Paris, where they will teach you more Wit; for if you stay till Day, it will be too late; there is a Warrant for Apprehending you.

*John, who was very willing to be fairly quit of the business, and go Travel, took this as a Favour, rather than a Banishment from his Uncle: He gets up, makes up
his*

his Pack, takes a little Money, and gets into *Paris*; where he soon made himself known. He resolved to set the best Side outwards; takes a Boy, changes his Name from *Le Brun* to *Le Bel*: And, having laid out part of the Money he had from the Lady to put himself in Equipage, he visited the great Ones, and went every Day into the best Companies; And had Wit and Impudence enough to bring him off well; being not so Raw, as to be taken for a Country Squire.

He soon gain'd considerable Acquaintance of the one Sex, and the other: But he was a little Knavishly given; and had in his Nature, an Inclination to Cheating, he could never get rid of, which spoyl'd all.

He had many Adventures, both good and bad, *Paris* being a place very

64 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
proper for that ; But the Adventure of his Lodging, was the worst of all, and sent him packing out of Town. You shall hear it in few Words :

After several Cheats he had Acted here and there, his Money growing low ; and, finding himself no longer in a condition to visit the Ladies, and keep the Company he had done at first, he was forced (for maintaining his Gallantry) to submit to make Love to his Landlady : She was a Woman not Unhandsome, and had pleased other Men. He was in her Debt ; and in what Respect soever he considered the Conquest, he could not but think it of advantage. Women of her Character, are quickly familiar ; their Calling obliges them to allow Men some Liberties, which
make

make them believe, They will deny them nothing.

Mr. *John Le Bel*, who, after the good Fortune he had met with in the Village, thought nothing so Impregnable, but it must yield to his Charms; found so much Kindness from his Landlady, from the first Day he spoke to her of Love, that he thought the Business done; and that she was deeply in Love with him; and that it was not for his purpose to be ill - conditioned to her. His Chamber was neer that of his Landlords, and he could hear him go out to Market every Day, as soon as 'twas Light, and leave his Wife in Bed, to take her Morning Rest: The happy Monsieur *Le Bel* thought it the most favourable Occasion in the World: He gets up one Morning, puts on his Night-Gown; and, without

66 *The Cheating Gallant*: or,

out farther Ceremony, goes to his new Mistresses Chamber, and was at her Bed-side before she awakt: He slips boldly into Bed; what he did there, I know not, it is not written in his Story; but certain it is, he was there above half an Hour with her, and no Noyse at all; without doubt, she took him for her Husband: But at last (having known him I cannot tell how) finding her Mistake, she cryed out withall her Force. It was in truth a great piece of Folly, and our Gallant paid dearly for it; For, the People of the House running in, armed Cap-a-pe, some with Broaches, some with Forks, some with Knives, and other Arms from the Kitchen-Magazin, enough to frighten a more dangerous Pallet, than the sieur of *John Le Bels*; Scarce gave him
him

him time to take his Breeches, and his Hat, the Blowes flew so thick about his Ears: And this was that Jolly Combat, which he published so much for his Honour where-ever he went; and got him the Sir-Name of *Monsieur du Joly Combat*.

He was glad to get to the door without Stockings, or Waistcoat; but, by Good Luck, he was not far from a Broakers, where, with the little Money remain'd, he bought a few Cloaths, to set him out as well as an ill Suit could do, for a second Adventure; and, at the same time, chang'd Quarters, for fear of new Assaults.

Paris is large; and those who would hide themselves, may easily do it: Monsieur *Le Bel* stood in need of such a Place; not only in regard of his Landlord, but
of

68 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
of those Persons of Quality he
had had the Honour to be ac-
quainted with; being not then
in a condition to maintain the
Port he had appeared in. How-
ever, he must live; and every
Day will not furnish us with the
kind Lady of the Castle: But
Folks sometimes meet with cross-
grain'd Landladies.

By good Luck, there was hard
by his new Lodging, a Bath-keeper,
who wanted a Boy: The Em-
ployment was somewhat mean;
but those in Necessity, stand not
much upon Terms and Punctilos
of Honour. He offers his Ser-
vice, and is entertain'd: And
changing his Condition, would
also change his Name, and calls
himself, *Champagne*.

And now *John Le Brun*, and
John Le Bel, is become *Champagne*,
a Bath-keepers Boy: He was na-
turally

turally Ingenious, and very fit for that Trade, and might have done very well in it, but that he thought it beneath him: He did but wait the Hour to bid his Master adieu; and as soon as the good occasion was offered him of a Gentleman belonging to Court, that came to Bath himself at his Masters, he took the pains to seize all his Cloaths, leaving him his Rags in Exchange. You may believe, that, being new rigg'd by this Shift, he made hast out of his Lodging, and travers'd the Streets a pretty round Pace: He had not then formed any Designe. Cavaliers of his Order, commit themselves to Fortune, Espouse all Adventures, and think every Country their own: But meeting, as he past along with a Stage-Coach, and seeing a handsome Lady in it, he asked the Coachman,

70 *The Cheating Gallant*: or,
man, What Place he was bound
for? He told him, *For Amyens.*
As Lucky as may be (answered
our Gallant) *'twas the very thing*
I look'd for; and, without more
adoe, steps into the Coach. Then
did he begin at leasure, to exa-
mine the Prize he had new ta-
ken; but found it not so Rich,
as he had promised himself. The
Gentleman whose Cloaths he had
borrowed, was a Man of Estate;
but had newly lost all at Play,
to *Champagnes* great Grief; who
scarce found in his Pockets, e-
nough to carry him to *Amyens*:
But the worst Luck now, the
better another time. The Lady
in the Coach, was none of the
least Beauties: There was but
they two, and he was in hopes,
his good Mein might Charm her
to bear the Charge of his Jour-
ney,

ney, while they travell'd together.

He set himself out, he play'd the Wagg, he talked of Love; and perswaded the fair Lady (who was an Honest *Picard*) so far of his particular Merit, that she believ'd what he pleas'd: But, as ill Luck would have it, she was a Person more beholding to Nature than Fortune; and had the same Designe upon him, he had upon her: So that, having felt one anothers Pulses, they soon perceived, they must Club for their Journey: Having found out this Secret, their Love grew cold, and they parted at *Amyens* with a great deal of Indifference on either side.

This Gallant, whom I dare no more call *Champagne*, Habited as he was, failed not to Lodge at the best Inn in the Town, and

72 *The Cheating Gallant*: or,
to Eat with some Officers who
were all Persons of Quality; and
among the rest, the Count *De*
Brion.

The Dress he was in, became
him huge well; and no Man but
would have taken him for a very
honest Gentleman: But having
neither Baggage, nor Servant, and
no more known in the Town,
than at his Lodging; the Inn-
keeper, who had learnt not to
trust any Passenger three dayes
after his Arrival, came to bid
him Good Morrow, and tell him, He
was going to Market. The Cava-
lier presently understood what the
Complement meant; and begin-
ning to Huff, asked, *How much*
he wanted for Provisions for his
House? That if fifty Pistols would
do, he should speak the word, and
have them within an Hour, down
upon the Naylor. In short, That
he

he should give himself no trouble;
That he would just dress himself,
and pay him what he owed him.

It was alwayes his Maxim, to
promise lustily, though he knew
not how to perform; especially,
at this time, when he could go
neither backward nor forward to
furnish himself.

The Count *De Brion* Lodged
in a Chamber hard by him: He
was a generous Person, and one
whom our Gallant had Courted
above the rest, with designe to
make use of him in case of ne-
cessity. He never scrupled to
Complement him, and let him
know, he was a Gentleman ill
used by Fortune; and had Re-
course to him, as a Person to
whom he would choose to be ob-
lig'd rather than any other. Count
Brion took pitty of him; and
having bid him not trouble him-
E self

74 *The Cheating Gallant*: or,
self for such a Trifle as what he
ow'd his Host, offer'd him a Place
in his Troop; telling him, *A*
young Man as he was, should not lose
the Occasion of this Warr to ad-
vance himself, but endeavour to
make his Fortune: As for him,
he would serve him with all the
Credit he had; and assur'd him,
he should never want as long as he
saw him do his Duty.

Mr. Champagne was no great
 Lover of Warr; He was not born
 under the Planet of *Mars*: How-
 ever, for Honour, or rather, for
 Necessity, he accepted (with
 much Joy) the place offered him
 by the Count *De Brion*; and
 within two Dayes, went along
 with him towards the place of
 Rendezvous, for the Kings's Ar-
 my.

That Champagne, though Glo-
 rious as the rest for that great Mo-
 narch,

narch, proved unfortunate for Count *Brion*, who was killed that Year. *John Le Brun*, as if he had been unwilling to Serve longer in the Warr, after the Death of his Captain; or rather, aweary of the Service, as too hard for him, thought of nothing more, than how (handsomly) to run away: He was then in very ill Equipage; but Heaven provided for him.

One who waited on Count *Brion* in his Chamber, and after his Death, had Listed himself in the Troop; having some Cloaths of his Masters, as he was going out on a Party one Morning, delivered them to Monsieur *Champagne*, to keep for him. Our Cavalier would not let slip the Occasion, but fastens his Port-mantle behind him; and, in a time, when it Rain'd as if Hea-

76 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
ven and Earth would come together, falls off from the Army, and gets into *Valenciennes*; where he was very wellcome, as all *French* Deserters are. From thence, he passeth to *Gaunt*, where he Sold his Horse to furnish himself with Money, to carry him to *Brussels*. He goes into the Boat; And knowing of what Consequence it was to gain an Esteem in the Place, by the Habit he should appear in at his Arrival, he took out of his Portmanteau one so very fit for him, as if it had been made for him; besides clean Linnen, he found there a Belt, Silk Stockings, and every thing he wanted, save only a Hat; his own being not suitable to the Habit he wore, It was his good Fortune, [to find in the same Boat a Merchant, who] furnish'd him with a very fine Hat for some things

things he gave him in Exchange.

Our Cavalier once more new fitted, entered *Brussels* in Triumph, and as fine as a Bridegroom; And, according to his Custom, took up a Lodging in one of the best Inns in the City; having his Port-mantle carryed after him, by a Boy he met casually in the Street: He made his Entry into his Lodging, under the Title of *A discontented Officer of the French Army*. He presently called a-loud for a handsome Chamber: Then he began to enquire, Whether there were in the Town any *French* Taylors to make him Cloaths, and Drapers, and Hosiers, and Shoemakers? He sent for some of all these Trades, and set them all to work, as well for himself, as his worthy Valet; giving them order to

78 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
have all ready in three Dayes;
that he would give them Con-
tent, and pay them with In-
trest.

— All the Discourse that Day in
the Inn, was of the *French* Of-
ficer: He had already gained the
Reputation of a Person of Qua-
lity, that was come to spend some
time at *Brussels*. Besides, the Gallant
had made it his Business, to enquire
of the Persons of Quality there;
and to inform himself of those
in particular, who would give a
Civil Reception to Persons of Me-
rit and Birth like himself; with
such other Particulars, as are ne-
cessary to be known by them who
intend to visit the Great Ones.
He had one of the best Rooms in
the Inn; and the Ordinary he
Eat at, was a Patacoon a Meal,
which was some-what high for an
ordinary Officer.

But

But our Gallant made a Bustle after the rate of a thousand a year : But the Maid going up at Supper-time to make his Bed, had the Curiosity, (or it may be a design, to finger some Spare Utensill or other for her use) to Ransack his Port-mantle, which she found open, and to see the fine things he had there : But was very much Surprized, to find it only a poor Soldiers *Wardrobe*, containing onely an old Gray close Coat Lin'd with blew, worn thred-bare within and without; a Greasy pair of Leather Breeches, a pair of Riding Stockings, all botched up with white Thred; an old Leather belt, and a black Taffety Cravat, with a Ribband of so extraordinary a Colour, that none knew what to call it then, though it had probably been formerly, a straw-Colour or scarlet. The Maid found

80 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,

none of these rich Accoutrements for her turn ; but was so Officious, to bring her Master the Newes of the discovery she had made ; who presently went up to take a View of these Goods, and easily guess how matters stood with our Officer ; having before had to do with some Officers of the same kind ; and having dearly bought his experience, he had no mind to be Cheated any more. He Let him sup quietly ; but as he rose from Table, he took him aside, and pray'd him Civilly, *To pay him for the two Meals he had eaten there, and to take another Lodging more Convenient for him, telling him, he had expected that Evening a person of quality, who had hired for a year the Chamber he had taken ; and that when he came, he could not deny it him ; that he was much troubled at it, but knew not how to help it. If*
that

that be all, (answered our Officer, without standing on point of honour to be put out of his Chamber, to accomodate another) we must Comply; have not you other roomes in the Inn? You are honest people; And I should be sorry to Leave you, because I am to stay a pretty while in this Town. I am obliged to you for the favour (replied the Host) but let it be, if you please, at some other time when we are not so full. What (said he, smiling) would you have me go seek a Lodging at this time of night, when I know not as much as the Streets of the Town? Tis no matter Sir (answered the Host) my Sheets are too fine, and I am not such an Ass to let them be Stolen. Your sheets, (replied the Officer Knitting his browes,) What's the meaning of that? Whom do you take me to be? I take you, answered the Host somewhat loud-

82 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
ly, to be a discontented Officer,
who may go to seek a Lodging
elsewhere, with your beggarly
Wallet, and your Port-mantle
full of Rages. How now insol-
lence, replied the Officer, is this
your course to Ransack my Boy's
Clothes. The Host was so provo-
ked at his Calling him insolent,
that he ran for a stick; at the
same time the Officer ran for a Fine
Silver Sword, that was upon the
Bed, and not only stood upon his
Guard, but fell upon his Landlord
so briskly, that he wanted the help
of his Servants, who Coming in
to his rescue, the Bustle increased.
Never did Monsieur *Le Bel* ap-
pear so Courageous, as on this
occasion; but the reason is, he
was newly come from the Army.
The Guests of the House ran in
to see what the matter was, but
found such a Confusion among the
men.

Men and the Maids, (crying out for being hurt, or for fear of being so) they knew not what to make of it. In the midst of this bustle, our discontented Officer, whom Fortune never fail'd at a dead lift, took his opportunity, and got away with his Silver Sword naked ; having lost nothing in the skirmish, but his Hat, without any harm but a few dry blows of no Great Consequence. This Jolly Combat was better than his former, having come off here with honour, and a good Sword for a trophy: The fear he was in of being pursu'd, made him take Shelter in a house, where he Spyed the door standing half open ; where, without more ado he boldly went in, Hoping to find a way to pass further ; or at least, a place of refuge from his Enemy : There he could see but one little Stair-case, which he got up softly,

84 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
softly ; and found in the Chamber,
a very handsom Lady, sitting all
alone, and leaning on a Table,
with a Book before her. The fair
Lady was so surpriz'd at his unex-
pected Arrival, that she fell down
half dead at his Feet: *Ab Sir,*
(said she) *do what you please, on-
ly save my Life.* This Action
caused no less Astonishment, than
Pitty, in our *Hero*: And letting
fall his Sword to the ground, like
a Person disarm'd, he took up the
Lady in his Arms ; and Embra-
cing her with a great deal of Re-
spect, lift her up from the Ground.
Your Life, Madam, (said he) *is
too precious, to be in danger with
a Man of Honour: Had any one
a Designe upon it.* (added he, ta-
king his Sword into his Hand) *he
should soon find, I stand here in your
Defence. But Madam, to put you
out of the pain of guessing the oc-
casion.*

casion of my being here (which I am very sensible, cannot but surprize you, seeing me in your Chamber at this time of Night, with my Sword in my Hand); give me leave to acquaint you, I am a French Officer, of Quality, as you know well enough, that in France, they imploy no other but Persons of Merit: I was taken Prisoner the last Engagement; And, having this Evening found some of my Guard asleep, after their Bellies full of Wine I had given them in the Day, I seized their Officer's Sword; and, having forced my Way through the midst of the rest, I saved my self, as you see. I have left them my Baggage, my Money, and all that I had; which, though very considerable, you may easily believe, I value not at all, when compared with my Liberty; which now, Madam, is in your Hands:

86 The Cheating Gallant : or,

Hands : It is in your Power to save, or to ruin, me : For, in the Effort I made to get out of their Hands, I know well enough, I have wounded two or three ; and I fear, I have left one dead on the place. The Lady being a Person of Quality, and of a Generous Nature, would have been very glad to have done a Gentleman a Kindness on such an occasion ; but she was just taking her Leave, and told him, It was not in her Power to do him any Service, but Recommend him to a Gentleman, her very good Friend ; whose Faithfulness he might rely upon. Ah Madam, (answered our Officer) now you are leaving this Countrey, give me leave to bear you Company : It will be the far surer Way for me, than to go back again for France, and to stay here, were to run too great a Hazard of being taken.

ken. If your Business require it (Replied the Lady) I should be very glad of it: For, though I be of this Countrey, yet, perhaps, I may be in a better Condition elsewhere, to serve you: But (added she, smiling) you know not whither I am going. Go to what part of the World you please (answered our Cavalier) it matters not at all; I shall send for what is necessary to put me into Equipage. You do not know me (Replied the Lady); and, it may concern you to consider, how you engage to Travel with a Lady, who (perhaps) may be imployed in some dangerous Business: For, in the Disorder you see me, you may easily believe, that this is none of my House. Ah Madam! As for Danger (Replied the Officer) I fear none but from your Eyes; As for any other, I have sufficiently learnt at the Army.

88 *The Cheating Gallant: or,*

my, not to value my Life; and should esteem my self Happy, to find an occasion to lose it in your Service. A Discourse so Generous, and obliging for the Lady, produced abundance of Thanks; which the *Hero* answered with as many Congees down to the Ground.

The Lady was Handsom and Witty, and had the Appearance of a Person of Quality; well acquainted with the Great Ones, and bred up amongst them. Monsieur *John Le Bel* our Officer, newly escaped out of Prison, thought her worth the looking after; and lookt upon her already, as his Mistress; or rather, one he resolved to make a Fool of, by putting a Trick upon her. She was in a loose, but rich Dress; which, with his finding her Door open, made him believe, She expected

pected some Bodies coming; of which, he made no very good Construction: But having Complemented her afresh, of the Necessity he was under, to use the Liberty he had taken; he thought himself obliged, to intreat her, to permit him to with-draw into some other Room of her Apartment, if his stay in her Chamber were troublesome: She told him, *No: That in truth, she expected a Visit from a Gentleman, her Friend; to whom she had sent her Foot-Boy, who carelessly left the Door open; but that she believed, he would not come that Evening, having stayed away so long: However, he might find time enough to go into another Chamber: And so, she pray'd him to take a Seat. I know not Madam* (said the Officer, to raise a Discourse) *what a Person you took me for, when you beg'd*

90 *The Cheating Gallant*: or,
beg'd your Life of me on your Knees,
as I entered your Chamber; but I
will assure you, No Action I ever
met with, surprized me so much.
I confess Sir, (answered she) you
put me into a terrible Fright, with
that naked Sword in your Hand:
I took you for one I had reason to
be afraid of; but you see, I soon
altered my Opinion: And to tell
you the truth, You look not like
an Assassin. An Assassin Madam,
(cry'd the Officer!) What Villain
could harbour such Thoughts against
so Beautiful a Person? There-
upon, he renew'd his offers of
Service, with greater Protestati-
ons than before; telling her,
with an Air of Bravery, That her
Enemies must be very strong, to
do her any Outrage, while he should
be so near her. Then pressing her
to tell him the truth of the matter,
he received from her the following
Answer: Though

Though the Confidence you have in me, in your particular Concerns, had not obliged me to impart Mine to you; yet they have made so much Noise in the World, I could not think fit to conceal them from a Person, whom (besides the Advantages of his Quality) I take for a Man of Honour, and Discretion. The Officer having return'd the Complement in a very Reverend Bow, she proceeded to tell him; I am a Lady of this Town, and of a Family considerable enough, both in the Court, and the Camp, to give me the Advantage of appearing in this Court with some Splendor: But the ill Understanding between my Husband and Me, hath made me so unhappy, that there is no staying for me here. Marriage, which serves for a Cloak to many others, hath robb'd me both of Honour and Estate. I never
Loved

90 The Cheating Gallant : or,

Loved my Husband, which is a great piece of Unhappiness; and he hath Loved me too well, which proves a greater Mischief than the other. You cannot but be sensible, what Swarms there are of troublesome Husbands in our time; and, consequently, how great the number is of Discontented Wives: And, let it not surprize you, to let you know, I am one of Them. I have been reputed Handsome, and so many have told me so; that, though I had not been inclined to believe it; yet the multitude of those who affirmed it, must needs have perswaded me to think so: But what is Beauty good for: but the Pleasure of being Beloved? I should account her a Fool, that should tell me, She put it to better use: gentle or simple, honest or kind-hearted, We are willing to please; And there are wayes to please the Severe.

vere and Morose, as well as the
Airy and Free: I have had Tryal
of both: But this pleas'd not my
Husband. But what came I into the
World for? To live as in a Nun-
nery? He hath done all in his
Power to make me leave Brussels,
and go live in the Countrey: But
missing of his Aime, he reduced me
out of pure Spight, into such a
Condition, that it was not in my
Power to entertain a Gallant: But
there is a Salve for every Sore:
All the Bustle he made, did but
increase his Disgrace, and proclaim
him to be that, which every Wise
Man should conceal to his Power.
I confess, I lost a little Reputati-
on among those they call, The
Vertuous Ladies; but those of the
contrary Title are so numerous,
that for one that Condemns me,
there are a hundred to Excuse me:
And perhaps, every Woman, that
hath

90 The Cheating Gallant : or,

Loved my Husband, which is a great piece of Unhappiness; and he hath Loved me too well, which proves a greater Mischief than the other. You cannot but be sensible, what Swarms there are of troublesome Husbands in our time; and, consequently, how great the number is of Discontented Wives: And, let it not surprize you, to let you know, I am one of Them. I have been reputed Handsome, and so many have told me so; that, though I had not been inclined to believe it; yet the multitude of those who affirmed it, must needs have persuaded me to think so: But what is Beauty good for but the Pleasure of being Beloved? I should account her a Fool, that should tell me, She put it to better use: gentle or simple, honest or kind-hearted, We are willing to please; And there are wayes to please the Severe.

vere and Morose, as well as the
Airy and Free: I have had Tryal
of both: But this pleas'd not my
Husband. But what came I into the
World for? To live as in a Nun-
nery? He hath done all in his
Power to make me leave Brussels,
and go live in the Countrey: But
missing of his Aime, he reduced me
out of pure Spight, into such a
Condition, that it was not in my
Power to entertain a Gallant: But
there is a Salve for every Sore:
All the Bustle he made, did but
increase his Disgrace, and proclaim
him to be that, which every Wise
Man should conceal to his Power.
I confess, I lost a little Reputati-
on among those they call, The
Vertuous Ladies; but those of the
contrary Title are so numerous,
that for one that Condemns me,
there are a hundred to Excuse me:
And perhaps, every Woman, that
hath

94 *The Cheating Gallant: or,*
hath a Husband like mine, is ex-
cusable for all the little Follies she
Commits. This very Day, a Gentle-
man his Friend, sent me word, He
had ordered two Soldiers of the Ar-
my (where he hath a considerable
Command) to come hither, and
Murther me: Fudge you Sir, if
after this News, I had not reason
to be afraid, when I saw you enter
my Chamber: Upon this Intelli-
gence from my Friend, I took my
Measures; and by his Advice, left
my own, to retire into this little
House for some few Dayes, till I
can order my Affairs, and take my
Leave of this Country. Just as
she was saying this, she heard a
Noyse at the Gate; which made
her believe, the Gentleman was
come, as in truth he was: She
made the Officer presently with-
draw; telling him, That one
pair of Staires higher, he should
find

find a Chamber open. He got up thither, and saw (though without a Candle) several Cloaths, and other things, lye on the Table and Stools there, which might serve for a reasonable Prize: But being in hopes of better Fortune in time, this could not tempt him. But he had the Curiosity to inform himself a little, what Discourse there might pass between the good People below, who visited one another at such an unreasonable Hour. He had no very good Opinion of the Matter; and thought, if he could once discover the Secret, it would be enough to render him necessary for the Lady: He went down, and stood close by the Door, being more than half shut; where he heard the Gentleman speak to this purpose; *I have taken the Liberty, Madam, to send your Boy to one*
of

94 *The Cheating Gallant : or,*
of my Friends, to intreat him to lend
me a Sword, having newly lost my
own by a very pleasant Adventure :
There came (said he) this Morn-
ning to our Inn, a Young French-
man; who made as if he were a
Person of Quality, with a Lacquey
at his Heels, carrying a huge
Port-mantle full of nothing but
Rags : Our Host at the first sight;
believ'd him what he was wil-
ling to be taken for, and enter-
tain'd him accordingly : But in the
Evening (by what Chance I know
not) he discovered, that this Ho-
nest Man, who pretended himself
A Discontented Officer of the
Army, was but a Deserter; and
civilly pray'd him to go out of his
House : The Officer took it as an
Affront : This occasioned high
Words between them, and from
Words they fell to Blowes : Our
Host had a Cudgel in his Hand;
and

and to my sorrow, the Officer finding my Sword in the Room, laid hold upon it: We ran in to see what the matter was; and as we were busie about parting them, the French Cavalier went away with my Sword, and I came off with the Loss: Mine Host having seized on his Hat, and his Baggage; though so inconsiderable, 'twill scarce pay his Score. The Lady amazed at this Story, thinking the Discontented Officer, very near akin to the Officer escap'd out of Prison; askt the Gentleman, What kind of Person the Frenchman was, and what Habit he had? which he described to be so like the Man, and Habit, she had newly seen in her Chamber, that she doubted no longer, but he was the very same: But whether out Prudence or Charity, she said nothing of it, (being willing to

F

save

98 *The Cheating Gallant*: or,
save from further trouble a Wretch,
who had fled to her for Refuge;
and fearing the bustle the Gentle-
man would make about it, being
very passionate; and hoping to
help him to his Sword again;
which, though he should have
lost, was no great matter to him)
she did but Laugh heartily at the
Story.

But the Gallant, who had heard
all this Discourse, did not think
fit to slight an Information of so
much Importance.: He presently
gets up Staires again; and in a
very short time, makes up his
Pack, which he takes under his
Arm, and straight-way goes
down the Staires; and being un-
willing to leave any thing behind,
that was so justly his own, he
slip'd away with his naked Sword
in his Hand: But, just as he was
opening the Street-Door, he
meets

meets the Ladie's Boy with a Sword in his hand; who, you may well think, might be surpriz'd, to find a Man like our Officer, coming in that Posture out of his Mistresses House: But our Officers Wit was so ready, that he presently asked the Boy, *If that were not a Sword he carryed to a Gentleman, who was there above Stayres?* To which the Boy having answered, *It was: Friend* (sayes the Officer) *you have no more to do but deliver it me; the Gentleman hath found his Sword, I have it here in my Hand, and am going for the Scabbard to his Landlord at the Inn:* The Boy was Young, and the Trick so neat, it might have catch'd an old One: He gave him the Sword; and, at his new Friends Request, lent him his Hat till his Return from

100 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
the Inn, whither he was going for
the Gentlemans Scabbard.

Monfieur *Le Bel* being thus got
out of the Bryers, the Boy gets
up Staires; The Gentleman pre-
fently ask'd him for his Sword :
The Boy answer'd, *He had given
it the Man without a Hat, who
had the other Sword in his Hand.
What Man,* (Replied the Gentlē-
man :) *The same* (said the Boy)
*that is gone to the Inn for your
Scabbard.* The Gentleman know-
ing nothing of what the Boy meant,
thought he was in Drink: But
the Lady, who presently appre-
hended the Matter, and that the
Discontented Officer had not been
Content with one Sword; fell
a Laughing so heartily, that the
Gentleman, not knowing the rea-
son, was some-what displeased;
and pray'd her to tell him, (if she
knew) *What was become of his
Sword?*

Sword? The Lady, with much adoe forbearing to Laugh, answered, *The same Rogue that had taken his First, had Cheated him of his Second, Sword.* How, Madam, (Replied he) the Frenchman? Yes, the very same, (said she) your Discontented Officer. But why, Madam, d'you tell me so? How should you know it? You do but Raily: Let's hear what manner of Man this Man without a Hat was? The Boy Described him so much to the Life, it could not be doubted, but he was the Discontented Officer: The Gentleman more astonisht than before, turns him to the Lady, and asks her, *How she came to know this very fine Gentleman?* Sir (said she) Give me time to breath, and I will tell you the Story: Then did she relate how he came to her Chamber; and the Tale he

102 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,

had told her of his being escaped out of Prison, which moved her to pity him ; being not able (on so pressing an Occasion) to deny Refuge to a Person of Quality, as he seemed to be: The Gentleman answered, *All this was well; but that she ought to have told him of his being at her Lodging; that it had, at least, saved him one of his Swords; and that, having understood so much of him, she might have concluded him a Rogue, that deserved not her Favour*: She excused her self with the Considerations we have mentioned; being a Person of so tender a Soul, and truly good Natur'd, she could not find in her heart to do the worst of Men any harm. *Madam* (Replied the Gentleman) *were it your case, would you be served so?* *Sir* (says she) *I fear I have lost more than you;*

You, and that my Complaſſance hath (by this time) coſt me very dear: For, when you came in, I ſent him up into a Chamber, where all my things lay at Six and Sevens: But the beſt of it is, he had not any Light. The Gentleman fell a Laughing at the Ladies Ingenuity, as if Thieves wanted Light to find out their Booty; and told her, *Such Peoples Eyes were in their Hands, and that their Fingers were their Candle.* They asked the Boy, *If the Man he had given the Sword to, carryed any thing with him?* Nothing (ſaid the Boy) *but a Bundle under his Arm:* This Alarmed the Lady; and the Gentleman had his turn of Laughing at her. They went up to the Chamber, and found he had carryed away in Cloaths, and other things, to the value of a hundred Piſtols:

104 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
The Lady was some-what comforted, thinking he could not be gone far for want of a Hat: But the Boy presently told her, *He had lent him his*; which made them more Sport: So that in truth, they had no more to do, but sit down by the Loss; having all had their share (not excepting the Foot-boy) in suffering by the Cheats of the pretended Officer.

Some Moneths after, this Lady (for whom Fortune had prepared new Adventures with our *Hero*) went for *England*; and soon after her Arrival there, visited a Person of Quality, with whom she had Contracted a very intimate Acquaintance at *Brussels*: She was received with Expressions of the highest Joy and Affection; the Lady being extreamly glad, at the Hopes of an Opportunity

tunity to pay her at *London*, the Civilities and Kindnesses received from her in *Flanders*.

They past from Complement, to Discourse of their Friends; and from that, to the News at Court. The Stranger having a Designe to continue some time in *England*, was very desirous to inform herself particularly, of the state of Affaires, and have some Knowledge of the Country; and was very well satisfied, she made her Address to a Lady very knowing in those Points; and one who failed not to give her a Relation, both general and particular, of all the fine Ladies, and their Gallants, in that Court. Her Discourse might have past for a Chronicle in Epitome; containing, in short, The History of the Gallants of either Sex: As well the Ladies, who (by their good Conduct) pre-

F S served

106 *The Cheating Gallant*: or,
served their Reputation, as those
who had utterly forfeited and lost
it: And of the Gentlemen, as
well those who were worthy the
paines of being Loved, as those
who were look'd upon, as the
Scandal of Ladies. She proceeded
yet further; and being antient
Acquaintance, gave the strange
Lady some Maximes, and Rules
of Conduct in that Court; which
with a little Practise, should make
her able to give Instruction to o-
thers.

After this long Discourse, the
Stranger, who knew that the La-
dy, her Acquaintance, being a
very beautiful Person, had alwayes
had her share of the Gallantries
in Fashion where-ever she dwelt;
asked her smiling, *Whether she*
continued still, the course of her
Conquests? She answered some-
what Coyly, That she bore no
part

part in the Comedies now Acted on the Stage of the World, but was only a Spectator; not that she was become insensible, or that those who have been in Love, can ever cease to be so: but to speak truth, whether it were the weakness of her Fancy, or the goodness of her Judgment, she had no Inclination (at least) for those of this Country: That she was for Strangers, and especially the *French*, whom she most affected. *You are not an English-Woman then* (Replied the Stranger.) *Not by Inclination* (answered she,) *though Born in the middle of England: Did you but know* (added she) *the Ayre, and the Grace, the French have in Gallantry: but I need not tell it you, who come from a Court intirely French. There is one here whom I see sometimes; He is in no small Esteem*

108 The Cheating Gallant : or,

Esteem among the Beauties. That may be the reason, Madam, (answered the Stranger) you are not altogether Impartial, as to those of this Country. You are my Friend (Replied she,) and I confess ingenuously, I have some Esteem for him; but that's all: He is a Person of Quality; he hath Wit; he is Handsom, and visits me oftner than others; which is enough to gain an Esteem from me, who am Naturally no Hater of the French. He might have got an Interest in a far handsomer Lady; and I know these who Aspired to the Conquest of his Heart: But his Stars, or perhaps some small Merit of mine, hath made him yield to those small Charms I carry with me. You shall see him here, it will not be long ere he comes; you shall give me your Judgment of him. The French (answered the Stranger)
have

have certainly a good *Meine*, and are Witty; and to speak generally, surpass all other Nations in Gallantry, and are their Masters therein: But to tell you the truth, We are to take heed of them, especially in a strange Country: You shall have a poor Farmer's Son, shall give himself the Title of Marquess of the Place he was Born in: Another, who never was better qualified than a Valet De Chambre, shall call himself by his Masters Name; the better to Cheat some Shop-keeper or Tradesman: There is such a Swarm of such Gallants in the World, that I believe in good Earnest, that People of Quality must for the Future, carry with them Authentick Testimonials; or must be content to lye under Suspicion of not being what they justly pretend to. I can tell you a Story, Madam, what a Trick I was served

110 *The Cheating Gallant*: or,
served some Moneths agoe, for my
willingness to Pleasure a French-
man of this Character: Then
she gave her an account at large,
of all the Particulars concerning
the pretended Officer at *Brussels*;
at which the Lady Laught very
heartily, and confest it was a no-
table Cheat: But, that Right
must be done to Persons of Qua-
lity; and that there is a Diffe-
rence between those that are Men
of Honour, and those who are
not. The Person I speak of (ad-
ded she) carries in his Counte-
nance, the Character of Honesty;
and hath in all his Actions, an
Ayre Remote, and altogether dif-
ferent from any thing of Base-
ness and Meanness: That he may
very well pass for a Pattern of Ge-
nerosity and Vertue. He came hi-
ther with a Person of Quality: In
a word, It is the Count Brion.
Count

Count Brion, Madam, (Replied the Stranger?) If I be not mistaken, I have Read in the Gazette, He was Dead. Yes, the Elder Brother (answered the Lady) but this is the Younger, who is come to a great Estate by the Death of his Brother. And, to the Advantages of Fortune and Birth, hath added that of the highest Merit: Some matter of Honour, as I understand by others: A Duel fought much to his Advantage, hath been the Cause of his flying hither for Refuge. He is not altogether unhappy, Madam, (answered the Flemish Lady) since Banished his own, he finds in this Country, some place in your Esteem; which cannot but be a very pleasant Refuge. You are always obliging, Madam, (Replied the English Lady) I have not Vanity enough, to flatter my self with an Opinion, of being able to serve

Count

112. *The Cheating Gallant: or,*

Count Brion in his Misfortunes. —

She had hardly done speaking when the Count entred; who, having heard the last Words of the Ladies Discourse, answered Smiling, *If any thing can lessen the Misfortune you speak of, it must certainly be the Honour of your Esteem. I cannot call my self unhappy, since the Day I believed you have any Value for me. 'Tis true Sir, (Replied the Lady) did your Happiness depend on that, you should have no great cause to complain of it; for, I should be sure to do you Justice: This I averr in Presence of this Lady, who, though a Stranger, is long since acquainted with the Sincerity of my Heart.* The Count, who had only a slight View of the Flemish Lady in passing by, finding by the Discourse that she was a Stranger, went up to her to Salute her:

her: But having fixt his Eye upon her, he was not a little astonisht: He easily knew her by her Countenance, and was at a stand; and twice or thrice changed Colour. He knew not what to say, and had scarce the Confidence to Salute her. The Lady as much surprized as he, advanced not a step to do him that Honour; and indeed, had scarce the Patience to endure it. The *English* Lady, having observed all these different Actions, the Trouble of the one, and Coldness of the other, knew not what to think of it; and seeing there passed not a Word between them, she asked, If they knew one another? And, being no less astonisht than they, added, *Were you not both my Friends, I know not what I should think of this Business. I confess, Madam,* answered Count Brion, endeavouring

114 *The Cheating Gallant : or,*

vouring to Recover himself) *this Lady is so exactly like a Person of Quality, I formerly had the Honour to know, and be extreemly obliged to, that I could not see her without Remorse for my Ingratitude towards her; whereof I own my self Guilty, and should think a thousand Lives (if I had them) well bestowed, to Expiate my Offence. The Fault must have been Great (Replied the English Lady) and I cannot believe you a Man capable of such a Crime. 'Tis great indeed, Madam; And had I not hopes of Pardon from her Goodness, I should dye for very Grief and Shame. And what say you to this, Madam, (answered the English Lady, addressing her self to the Stranger?) Does this Matter concern you? There must be some Cause for that Disorder and Trouble I observed in your Countenance*

on this Occasion. Madam, (Replied the Stranger) the cause of my Surprize is just like that of the Gentlemen; A Person very like him, behaved himself towards me not so well as he ought; and I took him for the Man. There is something Extraordinary in this Adventure (answered the English Lady;) and you must excuse me, if I believe neither of you in what you have said: I am very well assured, Madam, you came but Yesterday to Town, and that the Count was never at Brussels: So that, I cannot comprehend where you could have seen one another, but here. Pray clear this doubt, and tell me freely, What is the business. The Gentleman (Replied the Stranger) can do it far better than I. There are some things (said the Count) not fit to be spoken at all times; And then rising

116 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
rising up; *I shall leave all* (said
he) *to the Discretion and Gene-
rosity of this Lady, and with-draw
for the present; being not very
well*: With that, taking Leave
of the Ladies, he went his way.

If ever Person was in Pain,
if ever Woman had the Curio-
sity to know any thing, you may
believe the *English Lady*, so af-
fected on the present Occasion:
For, having really had, and as
frankly own'd, an Esteem for the
Count, she was very much con-
cern'd for him upon all Accounts;
and, particularly, those where any
other of the Sex appeared any
way concern'd for him. *Well,
Madam,* (said she, to the Stran-
ger) *will not you tell me what the
Meaning of this is? Shall I not
know the Adventure brought you
acquainted with the Count? I ne-
ver had Reserve for you; Your
time*

time is come to requite my Freedom. The Lady refused a long time, out of scruple to Ruin the Reputation of a Man, who might (perhaps) be a Person of Quality, and forced by Necessity to do what he had done: But fearing he was nothing less; and that her Friend might be abused by her good Opinion of the Count, she made her first Promise not to speak of the business; and then told her plainly, This was the Officer she had told her of, who had Escaped out of Prison. *Who, Count Brion,* (answered the Lady, with a Tone and Action that sufficiently declared her Surprise!) *Is he the Honest Man who stole your Cloaths, and the two Swords from the Gentleman your Friend? Yes, Madam,* (answered she) *the very same. It is not possible* (Replied the English Lady),
nor

118 The Cheating Gallant: or,
nor shall you make me believe,
though you make see it with my
Eyes. What you please (said the
Stranger); but I assure you, I know
him on no other Account: And if
you will take the Pains to examine
and reflect on what he said to me,
you may guess whether this be true
or not. Heavens! (cry'd she) is
it possible, that a Man of his Qua-
lity, should be reduced to the ne-
cessity of Acting such a Cheat?
He had reason to tell me, He had
never been at Brussels. However,
he is still a Man of Birth, and of
Parts; and I might have said, of
Merit too, but for this unhappy Ad-
venture. 'Twas but a Trick of
Youth (said the other) and so
may be pardon'd: You know, Men
are but Men; and France being
at Wars with us, he thought (per-
haps) Robbing me was but Plundering
the Enemy: But now, that he is
in

in a better Condition than formerly, he may make me amends, and express his Sorrow for the Fact, by making me Restitution. Yes, Madam, (Replied the English Lady) I will undertake he shall do it: For, besides the Generosity of his Nature, he is a Person of Honour; and will not fail to appear so, on such an Occasion as this: If such a thing should be known of him here, where he has the Esteem and the Love of so many Persons of Quality, What would become of him? I would not for the World it should come to their Ears: For, as he Visits me ofner than any other, I must expect to have the greatest share in his Disgrace. Let me beg of you, Madam, it may go no further. The Lady promis'd it; and having other Visits to make, took her Leave to go to the Lodging of another Lady, of her

120 *The Cheating Gallant*: or,
her Acquaintance; Where, En-
tering the Chamber, she found
her at some Difference with ano-
ther Person; who, upon her com-
ing in, quitted the Room.

The Fair *Flemming* was receiv-
ed at this Visit, with the same
Joy and Honours she had found
at the first: And having past the
first Complements of Civility;
and observed before, that when
she came in, the Lady was in bu-
siness with her who went forth,
she thought her self obliged to
make her Excuse for disturbing
them, and interrupting their Dis-
course. *You may believe, Madam,*
by our Actions you saw, that our
Discourse was none of the Pleasan-
test; and I verily think, you did
both of us a Pleasure; For, had
you not come in, we should have
certainly quarrell'd: She was a
French Lady, who came to demand
Money

Money of mine, for two pair of Embroidred Bodyce I had of a French-man, in Payment for Money I won of him at Play, about two Moneths agoe: She tells me, The Bodyce were hers, and that she had only trusted the French-man with them, to Sell them for her. I answered, I knew nothing of that, and that I had honestly bought them; and that she was to look after Payments from her Commissioner: The Stranger fell a Laughing at the Title of Commissioner; and asked, Who that honest Gentleman might be, who pay'd his Debts with other Peoples Goods; and to discharge what he ow'd one Lady, borrowed the Bodyce of another: This (added she) is a new piece of Gallantry, not very much in Mode among the Persons of Quality. Yes, (Replied the English Lady) this French-man would

G

pass

122 The Cheating Gallant: or,
pass here for a Gallant by Profession;
and calls himself, The Count De
Brion: But I never look'd upon
him, as other than a Valet De
Chambre Travesty, having nei-
ther the Wit, nor the Manners, nor
the Sentiments, nor Carriage, of
a Person of Quality: Nor do I
see what Ground there is for that
Esteem some Persons have for him
here, unless it be, for that he is a
Stranger. He hath appeared at
Court, under the Auspice of a French
Lord; whose Favour alone, might
gain a Man Credit: And that, I
believe, hath Contributed most to
the Honour a Man so little deser-
ving, hath received there. But there
are many who have changed their
Opinion of him; (and think) with
me, that he is not the Man he
pretends to be: Besides, there are
a number of People, who know the
House of Brion; and assure us,
there

there was but one Son of the Family, and that he dyed in the Army. It may be, Madam, (sayes the Flemmish Lady) the Gentleman you speak of, may be some near Relation of the Counts. No, no, (replied the other) he sayes, He is the Count Brion's own Brother and Heir, and would pass for such at Court.

“ I was Yesterday with a Lady
“ of my Acquaintance; and as
“ we were talking of some of his
“ Cheating Tricks, he happened
“ to come in; and told the Lady,
“ That a Dutcheffs (he named)
“ having seen the fair Diamond
“ Pendants at her Ears, had a great
“ Desire to have such another pair
“ made for her; and knowing he
“ had the Honour to be acquainted
“ with her, had sent him on
“ purpose to intreat her, to lend
“ her her Pendants for an Hour:

124 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,

“The Lady presently cast her
“Eyes upon me, and I Mine on
“her; both looking on one ano-
“ther, but in such a manner, that
“each of us understood well e-
“nough, how Suspicious this Em-
“bassie appeared to the other. My
“Friend having too much Wit to
“be caught in such Traps, ex-
“cused her self with saying, She
“was engaged that Afternoon to
“make some Visits of Conse-
“quence, and could not then
“spare her Pendants, being at her
“Ears; but that on the Morrow,
“she would return him his Visit,
“and afford him a sight of them:
“This Day we shall know the
“Truth; it being not probable,
“that Lady would have sent such
“a Person as he, on a Message of
“that Nature. But I entertain
“you too long, Madam, with this
“Subject; yet the Gentleman I
“speak

“ speak of, being one who is very
 “ much talk’d of, you may (per-
 “ haps) be glad to know him; and
 “ the Description I have given
 “ you, is much to the Life. The
 strange Lady thanked her for the
 Favour she did her; telling her,
 She took so much Pleasure to hear
 her, that it might pass for a Kind-
 ness, to have a further Account
 of what she knew of this Count;
 which, perhaps, she might re-
 quite her for, by finding a time
 to Entertain her with Relations
 of a very like Nature. “ You
 “ shall not be long here (Replied
 “ she) but you’ll see him; and in
 “ a few Dayes, you may expect
 “ a Visit from him; being indeed,
 “ the most Impudent of Men,
 “ and one who intrudes into all
 “ Places, where Persons of Qua-
 “ lity may be seen. He is not
 “ Unhandsom; and, could we
 G 3 “ judge

126 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,

“ judge of Men’s Birth by their
“ Shapes, we might believe him
“ well Born: but this is not the
“ first time, we have known the
“ Man handsomer than the Master:
“ And as for me, I will never be
“ perswaded he is any other than
“ a Serving-man: All his Actions
“ are mean and base; his Words
“ having nothing in them, that
“ carries the least Tast of a No-
“ ble and Elevated Wit: And
“ were it not for the Discourses
“ he makes of his Person, which
“ he boasts to the Skyes, on the
“ account both of Gallantry and
“ Bravery (which, I must tell you,
“ he maintains but very poorly
“ by his Actions) ’tis the pittiful-
“ lest Fellow for Conversation,
“ that ever I met with. His best
“ Talent is Impudence: He calls
“ himself, the Friend or Relation
“ of all the People of Quality in

Francis.

" *France.* In a word, He made
 " two Gentlemen believe, he was
 " with them at the Academy,
 " though neither of them could re-
 " member he had ever seen him be-
 " fore: But that which will chiefly
 " surprize you, is, The Impudence
 " he exprest about a Letter he
 " found on a Ladies Table, of my
 " Acquaintance (where I was at
 " Play); He took it with him to
 " the Play-House, to shew it three
 " or four Gentlemen; who verily
 " believed, the Letter was addrest
 " to him: And the Person who
 " had Written it, being very con-
 " siderable for Merit and Birth;
 " the Gentlemen seeing he treated
 " the Count *De Brion* so obligingly,
 " had a better Opinion of him
 " than formerly: But it happned,
 " that one of these Gentlemen go-
 " ing from the Play-House, went
 " to the Lady to whom the Let-

128 *The Cheating Gallant: or,*

“ter belong’d, being directed to
 “her; and knowing the Familiar-
 “ty between her, and the Person
 “who writ it, asked her, What
 “Acquaintance the Count *Brish*
 “had with her Illustrious Friend?
 Not any, I believe, (said she) and
 I think so the rather, for that he
 hath lately made use of my Intrest
 with him, to procure him a Letter
 from him in his Favour, to a Min-
 ster of State, with whom (he said)
 he had Business of Importance. I
 know not what to think of it (Re-
 plied the Gentleman,) but can
 assure you, I just now saw a very
 obliging Letter he hath written to the
 Count. A Letter (answered the
 Lady!) You shall find it was mine
 he found on the Table, and gives
 it out for his own. “It fell out
 “accordingly; for the Letter to
 “her was not to be found; and
 “what she told the Gentleman,
 “put

“ put it out of doubt, that it was the
“ same Letter. As they were
“ speaking of it, Count *Brion* comes
“ in: The Lady was unwilling they
“ should say any thing to him, and
“ to put him into such a Confusion
“ at her Lodging, as the Discove-
“ ry of his Vanity must have cer-
“ tainly reduced him to; But they
“ brought it insensibly into Dis-
“ course by degrees: You might
“ imagine, Madam, the Count
“ would have split on this Rock:
“ I looked for no less: But his
“ Impudence brought him off. He
“ maintained stoutly, that he had
“ been long acquainted with the
“ Gentleman, and had received
“ several Letters from him; and
“ told us a hundred Particulars of
“ him: At last, he play'd his part
“ so well, that if he did not abuse
“ us all, yet he left the one half
“ of the Company doubtful,

H 5,

“ whe.

130 *The Cheating Gallant: or,*

“whether what he said might not
“be true. The Lady seeing her
“self engaged, and knowing what
“he said was absolutely false,
“press’d him more than the rest;
“but he had the Dexterity to per-
“plex her so much, that the Victo-
“ry seemed to lean to his side:
“Then falling into his Tone of
“Railery, he told her, She was
“very much mistaken, if she
“thought that Gentleman Writ to
“none but to her: That she was
“not the only Person received
“Letters from him; That there
“were above ten Ladies in *London*,
“could shew Letters from him as
“full of Gallantry, as any she could
“produce; And he would engage
“to let her see above a dozen,
“if she would have Patience to
“stay till the Morrow: So free
“was he of his Promises. The
“Lady I believe, was seriously
“con-

" concern'd at his Discourse; and
 " the rest of the Company knew
 " not what to think of it: She
 " would have Lay'd her Watch
 " worth Threescore Pounds Value,
 " against Tenn Guinneyes, he
 " would not perform what he un-
 " dertook: The Count Honestly
 " told her, That in not Laying
 " the Wager, he made her a Pre-
 " sent of her Watch; and that
 " he would not put her to that
 " Charge to find out the Truth:
 " That she need but to have Pa-
 " tience till the next Day, he
 " promised upon the Word of a
 " Gentleman, as he was, to let
 " her see several of those Let-
 " ters.

" I know not whether the Lady
 " slept well that Night or not; but
 " I have been told, That when
 " she was up, the Count *Brion*
 " made her a Visit; and turning
 " all

131 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
“ all into Railery, complain’d of
“ her for driving on the business
“ so far before so good Company;
“ excusing himself, that he was
“ obliged to do as he had done, to
“ save his Reputation: That he
“ knew very well, she was the sole
“ Person in *England*, that the
“ Gentleman had an Esteem for;
“ And that he would give him an
“ Account, of the Perplexity he
“ had put her in on his score;
“ which was no small Signe, she
“ had no little Esteem for him.

“ This Lady, whether satisfyed
“ with this Acknowledgment, or
“ slighting further Satisfaction, said
“ no more of the Business. He
“ had the Fortune to meet many
“ Adventures of this sort; against
“ which, his Impudence was proof,
“ and saved him out of all: The
“ only one, I observed him out of
“ Countenance in, was, That of
“ his

“his Dancing at a Ball; where
“having come off well enough,
“he went to make his boast to one
“of the Principal Lords at Court,
“that he had Danced alone at an
“Entry at a Ballet, which he na-
“med: This Lord being an Ex-
“cellent Dancer, and a great Cri-
“tique in that Art, engaged him to
“let him see that Entry. The
“Count goes to the Musicians;
“who, having play’d several Ayres,
“hit at last upon that which the
“Count might have wish’d had
“never been found; being the
“Ayre for the Entry he had na-
“med: They press’d him to
“Dance it; The Ladies joyned
“their Forces with the rest of the
“Company, to prevail with him;
“but all to no purpose: And the
“Answer he made them, was, He
“would not give them Cause to
“Laugh at him; but they took
“the

134 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,
“ the Liberty to do it. A whole
“ Day will be too short, to tell you
“ all I know of this Person ; but
“ he is by this time, pretty well
“ known to most, though all are
“ not yet disabused ; but his Cre-
“ dit stands good. He came hi-
“ ther in a very wretched Condi-
“ tion ; but quickly recovered the
“ Equipage of a very great Lord,
“ at the Charges of three or four,
“ whom he got into his Snare :
“ And as for his poor Creditors, he
“ Entertains them with Expectati-
“ on of some Bills of Exchange
“ (which have been long enough a
“ coming) to have arrived from
“ *Japan* ; but you shall see, at
“ last, he'l go fetch them him-
“ self.

The Ladies having ended their
Discourse of Count *Brion*, spoke
of other things ; till at last, the
Stranger having other Visits to
make,

make, took her Leave; and was scarce got down Stairs, but she found the Lady she had made her first Visit to, Disputing Somewhat hotly with two Chair-men. The strange Lady took the Liberty to ask her, What the matter was? The other made Answer, That Count *Brion* having return'd to her Lodging, had Lent her his Chair, and that the Chair-men would make her pay for it; which was no usual thing: The Count in the mean-time comes in; and enraged at the sight of the Abuse offer'd the Lady by the Chair-men, he took up his Cane, and gave them three or four Blowes: But he soon found as good as he brought; for, the Chair-men thinking the Bastonado intolerable, return'd him Blowes with Usury: Two to one was not so even a Match for Beating as Carrying.
The

135 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,

The Ladyes were much troubled,
but knew not how to help him:
But, by good Fortune, a Gentle-
man came by, with another behind
him, who parted the Fray: The
Man I last mentioned, was a
French-man, who being newly
arrived from *Paris*; and having
cast his Eye on Count *Brion*, came
up to him to Salute him: “ Ah
“ Monsieur *Champagne* (sayes he)
“ I am heartily glad to meet you
“ here. Monsieur *Champagne*
“ (replyed the Count?) What
“ d’you mean by that? Whom
“ d’you take me to be? I mean
“ (answered the other) that your
“ Name is *Champagne*; and I take
“ you for a Bath-keeper’s Boy I
“ knew at *Paris*, and——Friend
(Replyed the Count, Interrup-
ting him) “ you mistake your
“ self, I am Count *Brion*. I do
“ not mistake my self (sayes the
“ other)

"other), and by this very good
 "Token, That you stole away
 "the Cloaths of a Person of Qua-
 "lity, which I was forced to pay
 "for: He spoke this so loud, that
 all who stood by, heard him what
 he said. The Count was glad to
 take him by the Hand, to draw
 him aside; telling him, He was
 mistaken: The other as stiffly
 maintain'd, He was not; and
 threatned to have him Arrested,
 if he would not pay him for the
 Cloaths. "But I am Count *Brion*
 (answered he, much more trou-
 bled with this one *French-man*,
 than he was with the two Porters.
 "You may be what you please
 (says he) "when you have pay'd
 "me for my Cloaths; but till
 "then *Champagne, Champagne,*
 "and no Count *Brion*. While
 they were engaged in this Fine
 Dialogue, the Gentleman who had
 parted

138 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,

parted the Count, and the Chairmen when they fought, entertain'd himself in Discourse with the two Ladies; but seeing a new Quarrel like to arise, he stept aside, and ask'd them what the matter was?

“ Nothing (sayes the Count) but
“ an Insolent Fellow loves to hear
“ himself talk, and will needs
“ take me for I know not who:
“ He is certainly Drunk; and
“ were it not for Respect to you,
“ I should make him know who
“ I am. The Man was going to
Answer; and had doubtless said worse than he had hitherto done, but the Gentleman perswaded him to with-draw; and so, did the Count a great Piece of Service. After this the Count sent in search of the *French-man*, and did all in his Power to perswade him, He was not *Champagne*; and submitted how-ever, to pay for the
Cloaths.

Cloaths in Question: But all to no purpose.

This, with many other Reasons, made him resolve to leave *London*; having Reigned there too long, to continue any longer. His Fortune was at the Height, and he apprehended the Danger; that, if he endeavoured to Climb any Higher, he might chance to take the Way to Heaven in a String.

The Lady of *Brussels*, and the Man of *Champagne*, were the Evil Starres that boded him a Storm of Bastonades. It is the Prudence of Man kind, to prevent such Tempests. CHEATS, who have Wit, are very sensible how subject their Life is to Dangers of that kind. He easily saw a Cloud of Misfortune gathering over his Head, for his Insolence and Impudence at *London*; and that it was time to with-draw:
Eve-

139 *The Cheating Gallant* : or,

Every thing hath its Season ; and he, the better to know the proper Hour for packing away, went to a Watch - maker ; who, taken with his good Meine, trusted him with two Gold-Watches ; with the help of which, he took the Lucky Moment so right for getting away, that neither Landlord, nor Draper, nor Taylor ; nor Tradesman whatever, nor any other Creditor (for he had of all sorts) dreamt of his Journey ; only the Chair-men had him in the Wind, being (as the Story goes) told of it by his Foot-boy ; who then were pay'd more than their due. But to conclude his *Cheats* here, and that he might go out of *England* so as he came in, that is, at other Mens Charges ; when he came to *Harwich*, he went to a Merchant, and told him, He had a Letter
from

from one of his Friends, to desire him, to procure him with all speed a Vessel for *France*; but that he had unhappily lost it. The Merchant Seeing him a handsom Man, and in very good Equipage, told him, A Letter was needles; and presently found him a Vessel, bound for France, & agreed for six Pieces; and with very much Ceremony, saw him Embarked.

The Gentleman gets into *France*; and having no desire it should be at his own Charges, he found a way to differ with the Seamen; who having agreed with the Merchant of *Harwich* for six Pieces, the Count would pay them but six Pistols: which the Mariners being unwilling to accept of, he sent them with a Billet to him, with whom they agreed; and so got out of their Clutches.

So

142 *The Cheating Gallant*: or,

So much may suffice for the Acts of Count *Brion*: And now that he hath changed Country, he must also change Name: He gives himself the Title of *The Baron of Vachere*; which, it is reported, was the same he past under in his Voyage for *England*. The New Title was attended with New Adventures: But we must hasten to find him at *Paris*; where his Planet having alwayes had very ill Influence on him, made him fall into the Hands of a Gentleman, with whom he past from *Diepe* to *Harwich*; who finding himself some-what concern'd in the Insolencies of this pretended Count, caused him to be taken, and clapt up in Prison: He design'd to send him into *England*; but upon a Ladies Intercession, was content to see him

Con-

Condemn'd to the Gallies; where,
it is said, he doth Wonders.

A sorry End for the *Hero* of a
Romance: It had been better for
him to have been a Country Cu-
rate: But who can resist his Fate?
And who knowes but worse might
have befallen him? Leading the
Life he then led, he had reason
to expect to Hang one Day be-
tween Heaven and Earth; and
hath reason to think himself hap-
py, he is now out of Danger of
cutting Capors at Tyburn.

THE END.
